Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-161
Tuesday
22 August 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-161 *22 August 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hurani Criticizes U.S. Position on PLO

JN2108190689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
20 Aug 89 p 26

[By Fathi al-Barqawi and news agencies]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that during the fourth round of its recent dialogue with the Palestinian delegation in Tunis, the United States went too far and indirectly asked the PLO to give up its insistence on being the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He said Washington had stated to the PLO that it could not find an alternative to enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories and that the peace process will begin only through a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories on the condition that the PLO does not declare its approval of that, lest it provoke Israel.

In an interview with AL-ANBA', Hurani explained that the U.S. delegation to the dialogue expressed Washington's unwillingness to give assurances that the PLO will play a role in the future phases of the so-called peace process, or even in the final stage of the settlement.

Hurani also said that the U.S. Administration considers the enemy government's plan to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian territories a principal element in the peace process; that there is no alternative to the elections; that it will not try to find any other formula; and that the PLO should find a way to approach the Israeli plan. He added that during the fourth round of talks, the United States insisted that there would be a peace process only through a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories as a prelude to elections.

Hurani expressed his astonishment over the U.S. delegation's demand that if the PLO approves a dialogue between Israel and Palestinian figures from the occupied territories, the PLO should not declare this approval or refer to any relationship with these figures "lest it provoke the Israeli Government." He also said that Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, head of the U.S. delegation to the talks, had affirmed to the Palestinian delegation that Israel will not deal with the PLO, that the United States will not pressure Israel into dealing with the PLO, and that the PLO has to convince Israeli public opinion to make it easy for the Israeli Government to accept dialogue with the PLO.

Hurani has also disclosed that the U.S. Administration has expressed its belief that the PLO's insistence on being the sole representative of the Palestinian people in any negotiations or settlement is viewed as a precondition set by the PLO to hamper the peace process. He also said that the U.S. delegation refused to give any guarantees for finding a final solution to the Palestine question and also stressed that the U.S. Administration is unprepared to give assurances about any future PLO role even in the final phase of the peace process.

Regarding the Palestinian position in the dialogue, Hurani described it as the strongest since the start of the dialogue and that the Palestinian delegation confirmed the fact that the United States has not taken one step forward and is completely biased toward Israel. He said that the Palestinian delegation under Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told the U.S. delegation that if it has no plan other than Shamir's, the PLO will frankly and clearly reject it; and that if the United States and Israel believe they can carry out Shamir's plan, let them try and "we are sure they cannot do that." Hurani described this position as a challenge to the U.S. Administration and Israel.

Asked about the PLO's contacts with Israeli democratic forces and whether these contacts would be affected by the final political statement issued by the fifth Fatah Congress, Hurani pointed out that the majority of the members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] which approved these contacts are Fatah members, who played a great role in making the said decision in order to expand the elements of Israeli public opinion which can understand Palestinian national rights. Consequently, the PNC's decision will remain effective and contacts with these Israeli forces will continue in their present form.

Cited on Lebanese Crisis

JN1908180489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1617 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member brother 'Abdallah Hurani has accused Israel and the United States of escalating the Lebanese situation to divert attention from the intifadah [uprising] and the Middle East crisis.

In a statement in Tunis, the Palestinian official said that the escalation of the situation in Lebanon serves the U.S. and Israeli policies.

PLO Committee Member on U.S. Talks, Intifadah

JN1908133489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
17 Aug 89 p 25

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian official has said that Palestinian leaders made decisions on 15 August that will affirm to the Israeli Government that it cannot continue its attempts to cause splits between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the PLO leadership abroad or to drag any Palestinian party in the occupied territories to talks on the Shamir plan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee Member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] added that the recent U.S. stand demonstrated in the fourth round of the U.S. Administration's talks with

a PLO official delegation was brazen, rough, and contained nothing new toward a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

He added that he personally was not surprised when he read the minutes of last Monday's round of talks, as the talks held over the past few months as well as the series of U.S. stands demonstrated hostility toward the Palestinian people's national rights.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa added that in the fourth round the United States devoted its efforts to promoting Shamir's plan whose essence and known no's aim to entrench the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. Abu-'Ali Mustafa said that the U.S. ambassador's remarks indicate that the U.S. Administration insists on considering this plan as indispensable and realistic and that the U.S. Administration inists on ignoring the Palestinian initiative which has received worldwide support, especially at the UN General Assembly extraordinary session in Geneva.

The Palestinian official said the United States insists on implementing its strategic plan of controlling the Middle East at the expense of its peoples, including the Palestinian people.

On the nature of the next stage, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said the Palestinian leadership should work through clear programs and plans and should contemplate the current political facts to promote and escalate the intifadah [uprising]. He said the promotion of political performance depends on the promotion of militant performance, and vice versa. This is especially so since the intifadah is approaching its 2d year, something which requires new programming.

However, he continued: The new programming does not necessarily need to be military, but can be through gradual acts of disobedience which have not yet been used by the intifadah and which may later be developed into a comprehensive disobedience, as stipulated by some calls issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa revealed that the PLO approved in its recent meeting the idea of sending memos to a number of states, including the five UN Security Council permanent member states, Japan, the EC states, the African group, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the nonaligned states. The memos hold the United States responsible for obstructing the peace march in the Middle East.

In his capacity as assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Abu-'Ali Mustafa praised the resolutions issued by the Fatah fifth general congress, especially those imposing firm restrictions on meetings between Palestinians and Israeli forces that do not recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and do not recognize the the Palestinian people's national rights and the right to repatriation and self-determination.

'Arafat Adviser Cited on U.S. Mideast Policy

PM2108144589 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] In an interview with AL-MADINAH Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif emphasized that continued Israeli intransigence and terrorist practices by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip create in the Palestinians a permanent feeling of bitterness about the U.S. official stance, which neither opposes this terrorist escalation nor defends Palestinian human rights, although the U.S. Administration defends other peoples' human rights. This serious situation, he added, will drive the Palestinians to despair and nondependence on the international community, which is moving slowly and has so far taken no practical steps to put an end to the Palestinian people's suffering.

Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser said that continuation of this state of affairs would take the entire Middle East to boiling point, with unpredictable consequences.

On U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu-Sharif said that although 9 months have elapsed since it started, the dialogue has not made much progress. He urged the U.S. Administration to treat the parties to the Middle East conflict fairly and equally. He stressed that all issues would be negotiable if the United States promised to work for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within a specific timetable.

Abu-Sharif confirmed that Fatah's fifth general congress supported the Palestine National Council Algiers resolutions without any reservation and also supported 'Arafat's political initiative. 'Arafat's initiative, he said, is not a seasonal initiative but a line and policy which the PLO will pursue until the end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On the issue of elections in the occupied territory, he said: We are in favor of elections the American way, that is, in favor of the Palestinian people electing their president and their parliament members.

He added that the PLO will continue its political and diplomatic activities at the international and regional levels.

He said that the PLO expects Europe to play an important role in the last quarter of the current year. He added that British-Palestinian relations will continue to

develop until the British position reaches the point of supporting Resolution 181, which means commitment to the establishment of two states in Palestine, one Palestinian and the other Jewish. He said he has sent the new British foreign secretary an invitation assuring him that President Yasir 'Arafat would be happy to receive him in Tunis or anywhere else.

Bassam Abu-Sharif added that the PLO also expects Japan to play an active political and economic role in the Middle East, and expects Baker and Shevardnadze, when they meet in September, to discuss the agenda of the Bush-Gorbachev summit, which will cover the Middle East question as a top regional issue which both sides wish to solve.

U.S. 'Bad Faith' Causes Failure of Dialogue

LD2108212989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] It is natural that the latest round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in Tunis should end in failure as a result of the bad faith which dominates and subjugates the mind of the U.S. side in the dialogue, on the one hand, and because the United States is a protagonist, and not a neutral side in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, on the other.

Washington has been trying hard to promote Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories. To be precise, it wants to coerce the PLO into forming a local Palestinian delegation to negotiate the details of the Israeli proposals, and consequently to crystallize an elected Palestinian body that would negotiate the period of self-government idea, while the final position of the occupied territories would be discussed at a later date.

The PLO is required to drop its conditions, which are: rejecting the Israeli elections plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip unless the Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied territories; UN supervision over these elections; the Israeli withdrawal would be according to a timetable that finally would result in an independent Palestinian state.

To use more precise words, what is required is that the PLO should dissolve itself and declare that it has no connection with Palestinian people or issues, nor in the Palestinian people's struggle to uphold their inalienable rights. It is not surprising, therefore, that the fourth round should fail, like the previous first, second, and third rounds, just as the fifth and sixth rounds will fail so long as the U.S. side in the dialogue lays ambushes and plants mines in the way of the Palestinian side.

The clear evidence of U.S. bad faith at this stage of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is the threat and intimidation formula used by the U.S. side in the recent round and by the officials in the administration of President Bush following the announcement declaring this round of dialogue a failure; the United States chose to bury its head in the sand, it ignored the Palestinian peace initiative by alleging that the PLO leaders sooner or later will realize that their continuing rejection of the election proposals and letting this opportunity of peace slip away would mean that there would be no more games in the arena to take part in.

The United States wants dialogue with the PLO to be an end in itself, and not an aim [as heard] that would lead to a fair and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

'Arafat Reopens PNF Office in Amman 21 Aug

JN2108144089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat today reopened the Palestine National Fund's [PNF] offices in Amman by delivering a speech in which he expressed appreciation and thanks to King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for the decision to allow the PNF to resume its tasks from Jordan, thus ushering in joint action and common struggle on the road to liberation. 'Arafat, who arrived in Amman yesterday, explained that the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people is a unique relationship and will be based in the future on a confederation between two states: the state of Jordan and the state of Palestine.

PNF Director Jawid al-Ghusayn told reporters that the Arab countries which pledged to support the PNF at the Casablanca summit have fulfilled their obligations. Al-Ghusayn added that support funds are paid monthly to the PNF whose budget is around $270 million.

Al-Ghusayn added that Saudi Arabia contributes $6 million, Iraq $4.25 million, the United Arab Emirates $3 million, and Kuwait $2 million. He added that Libya promised to provide direct support in the form of medical and educational institutions in the occupied territories.

The PNF offices in Amman were closed in July 1986.

Milhim Cited on Reopening

JN2008154189 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Aug 89 p 15

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Muhammad Milhim has said that the reopening of the Palestine National Fund [PNF] offices in Jordan will help bolster the growing Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which basically serve the stability and prosperity of both peoples.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Milhim said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will officially open the PNF offices during his expected visit to Amman.

Over the past few years, he said, the PNF has been carrying out its activities unofficially through the offices of the Palestine National Council. Milhim stressed the importance of 'Arafat's visit to Jordan at this particular time and said that the talks between 'Arafat and King Husayn during the visit will cover a wide range of topics, starting with the economic situation in Jordan and ending with the efforts being exerted toward a political solution in the Middle East, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and the prospects for the convening of the international peace conference.

Milhim stressed that the opening of the PNF offices in Amman will have positive impact not only on the economic situation in Jordan, but also on the day-to-day livelihood conditions of the occupied territories' residents.

He said the PLO is very concerned about handling the deterioration of the Jordanian economy because this directly affects the intifadah [uprising] and the people of the occupied territories.

He said the Jordanian dinar remains the currency used by our people in the occupied territories. The occupation authorities, he added, flooded the Jordanian and Palestinian markets with this currency, causing a decline in the value of the dinar and consequent negative effect on the daily life of our people.

Milhim said the PLO is very satisfied with Jordan's ability to overcome the economic crisis, in the creation of which Israel has played a great role.

On the recent Jordanian measure giving some holders of green identity cards the right to possess yellow identity cards—cards of Jordanian citizenship—Milhim, in the first official Palestinian reaction, told AL-WATAN that the Jordanian measure came to resolve some technical problems caused by the state of duality in the cases of some families—with the head of a family holding a yellow card and his wife holding a green one, for example.

The system of yellow and green cards was introduced as a measure linked to the disengagement of political and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank.

Milhim said the recent Jordanian measure came to resolve the problem of duality. It is a technical measure that has no political implications on the disengagement decision, he said.

Egypt

Mubarak Says 'No Need' for Summit on Lebanon

NC2208075889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to the homeland from Harare last night. The president chaired the meetings of the Standing Committee on southern Africa which were held over the past 2 days in the Zimbabwean capital.

The president was met at the airport by the assistant to the president, the deputy prime ministers, and the ministers of defense, information, and interior.

Upon his arrival, Mubarak said that there is no need to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis because the recent Arab summit was held only 3 months ago. Mubarak said: We have to wait for the work of the Arab tripartite committee to bear fruit. The committee, he noted, will resume its endeavors to resolve the Lebanese problem.

Last night, President Mubarak called on the United Nations to assume its full responsibility in carrying out the international community's wish for Namibia's independence. [passage omitted]

Saudi Paper Interviews Foreign Minister

PM2208100789 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Aug 89 p 7

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Sami al-Muhanna; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Muhanna] Although the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has changed the balance of power in the region, Israel is still intransigent and pursues an oppressive policy against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. What, Your Excellency, is the Egyptian position on that?

['Abd-al-Majid] We in the Arab Republic of Egypt back and support the wishes of the Palestinian people. We see the heroic Palestinian intifadah as the best answer to the continuation of Israeli occupation. The intifadah is a living expression of the Palestinian people's resistance against Israeli occupation.

Egypt condemns and calls for an end to the Israeli acts of oppression, urges fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and believes that it is necessary to hold an international conference to promote a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

We hail the role played by the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership and believe that the line it has followed recently has earned it considerable international support and achieved results for the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Muhanna] How do you view the forthcoming visit to the United States by the custodian of the two holy mosques and the anticipated results of the visit in the light of the Kingdom's constant concern for fateful Arab causes and the positive attitude of U.S. President George Bush's administration?

['Abd-al-Majid] Any visit by the custodian of the two holy mosques could only be in the interest of the Arab nation and the Islamic states. We believe it will be a very important visit and it will give King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz the opportunity to discuss with U.S. officials all matters of interest to the Arab world. The custodian of the two holy mosques is best qualified to discuss these issues because of his knowledge and his insistence on Arab legitimate rights. We wish him every success on that visit in safeguarding Arab rights. [passage omitted]

[Al-Muhanna] Statements emanating from Damascus and Cairo occasionally speak of the improvement of Egyptian-Syrian relations, stressing the historic nature of these relations. Considering what was achieved at the meeting held between President Mubarak and President al-Asad during the Casablanca summit conference, how do these relations stand at present, and what about efforts to resume full relations between the two countries?.

['Abd-al-Majid] Actually, relations have been going well since the meetings held between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad in Kuwait and Casablanca. We have sensed a desire to calm the situation. I believe that we all have that same desire as Arab people, and especially the Syrian brothers.

We always say that differences do not destroy amity. We welcome the existing spirit and current calming process. That, God willing, bodes well for the two states and peoples and also for all the Arab nation.

[Al-Muhanna] In the same vein, what can be said about Egyptian-Libyan relations?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egyptian-Libyan relations have also been going well since the meetings held in Casablanca between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. A series of important measures has begun and this is increasing and growing at the levels of reopening borders, resuming air and sea traffic, and the exchange of visits between officials, which has taken place in accordance with the clear wishes of the Libyan and Egyptian people.

We are happy with this response and we believe that this rapprochement is in the interest of both countries and the Arab nation.

[Al-Muhanna] Some voices have recently been raised calling for the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. What is your comment on such calls?

['Abd-al-Majid] Actually, the Arab League charter clearly states that the Arab League's permanent headquarters is Cairo. This matter will be discussed with the Arab brothers at the appropriate time. We believe it is very easy to resolve this matter. There is no problem. The charter is clear. When the Arab League was moved to Tunis it was stated that that was a temporary measure. This issue will be discussed at the right time and it will be discussed in a spirit of amity, fraternity, and cohesion between us and the Arab brothers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Muhanna] What are your expectations regarding the situation in Iran after the presidential election and regarding the future of Arab-Iranian relations and their effect on the Gulf region's security and stability?

['Abd-al-Majid] We hope the new president will turn over a new leaf of cooperation and good relations with the Gulf states and other Arab states and respond to the Iraqi quest for permanent peace so that the Iraq-Iran war hemorrhage may stop and the state of no-war, no-peace may end with the implementation of all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 598 so everyone can live in peace, security, and stability. There is no hostility between us and Iran. We hope that the new president will devote his efforts to rebuilding what the war has destroyed and to ensuring that Iran establishes peace and good-neighborliness with all states of the region.

[Al-Muhanna] Considering that the efforts of the higher tripartite committee in charge of settling the Lebanese crisis have reached a dead end, what are your expections in this connection?

['Abd-al-Majid] We hope that the coming period will witness consultations and exchange of views on the Lebanese crisis and the need to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy. The fraternal Lebanese people have had enough tragedies and have made enough sacrifices. All the Arab states are urged to cooperate and work together in search of a peaceful settlement to the Lebanese problem.

In its report the [Arab tripartite] committee said that it has reached a dead end. That report, I believe, is bound to be submitted to the leaders. We will wait and see what happens. Egypt backs and supports all attempts to resolve the Lebanese crisis and it has firmly and fully supported the tripartite committee. [passage omitted]

[Al-Muhanna] Do you expect anything new in the U.S. and Israeli positions following the hostage crisis and the related international reactions?

['Abd-al-Majid] The problem is serious and has assumed vast dimensions. We hope that agreement on a solution could be reached and an end be put to the use of force. Efforts should concentrate on the major issues such as the Palestinian question, the Lebanese question, and the issue of a permanent peace between Iraq and Iran. We are in favor of an international peace conference and we call for such a conference and see it as the only effective way of promoting peace. [passage omitted]

Draft Accord Reached With France on Fighters

PM1808090489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16-22 Aug 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Mirage-2000 in Egypt"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that Egypt has reached a draft agreement with France authorizing Cairo to produce the Mirage-2000 aircraft at its military factories. The agreement also covers the manufacture of armored vehicles and anti-aircraft missiles. Ratification of the agreement is facing major difficulties within the French Government, but senior French officials said that such cooperation must take place in order to extend the strong relations between the two countries into broader fields.

Aid Grant Agreement Signed With U.S.

NC1708150689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—The agreement on the cash grant from the United States to Egypt, which totals around $115 million, was signed today at the Ministry of International Cooperation within the framework of the U.S. aid program for Egypt for 1988.

The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and on the U.S. side by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner.

Dr Makramallah stated that the signing of this agreement underlines the extent of improvement in the Egyptian economic situation because the U.S. Congress had earlier stipulated the need to take steps toward economic reforms in Egypt as a condition for releasing this grant. [passage omitted]

Ground Station for Arabsat Planned in Al-Ma'adi

JN2108195389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Aug 89 p 2

[By Ahmad Bakir]

[Excerpt] Transport and Communications Minister Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli has declared that since Egypt has returned to the Arab Space Institution Communications, Arabsat, the telecommunications organization has submitted a tender to set up an earth communications station to function with the Arab satellite. It

will be set up in al-Ma'adi quarter to supply communication circles and television channels to transmit programs and communications between Egypt and the Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Editorial on Steel Workers' Right To Strike

JN1808180289 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Who Can Prevent Protest Movements?"]

[Text] The iron and steel factory incidents have proved that those who sit in offices do not know what takes place behind the machines. This applies to both those who are ensconced in the seats of power and those who control the newspapers.

They say that the "disaster" lies in the workers' penchant for rioting. This was merely a pretext for the police assault.

They say that the martyr worker's death was an act of God. This is a flagrant lie, which is refuted by the coroner's testimony.

Some of them say: We do not oppose the right to strike, but this right should not be granted to lazy, anarchist, and nonproductive workers.

These and others have forgotten that there is a rule that is well known to the workers, especially in the public sector, that machines should not be tampered with or production stopped because these are the people's and not government property.

These and others forget that the Egyptian industrial worker produces many times more than the one who sits in offices because of the worker's responsibilities and attendance to machines. This worker has greatly contributed toward building the entire Arab homeland. This worker realized profits in iron and steel which exceeded 20 million pounds last year.

Those who talk about Western liberalism forget that the right to strike was approved by courts of law and international agreements signed by Egypt. It is a natural outcome of people's pain and suffering. Who can prevent protest movements now, given the increasing injustice and the worsening economic situation? Who can prevent workers from striking when they find that, while they suffer, others live in luxury in Egypt? Who can prevent them from demanding better working conditions and terms?

No one can. Yet, the government has denied the workers the right to strike or to stage sit-ins, which are peaceful protests. On the other hand, the government has arrogated to itself the right to storm factories and kill innocent people. Should not a line be drawn somewhere to separate issues that require police intervention from issues that do not? Is there not a rational policy that should place the horse ahead of the cart, political means ahead of violence?

The problem in Egypt is that they do not realize that police alone are not enough, that the roots of the problem are not resolved, and that the paths to democracy are being closed despite their knowledge that the alternatives are explosions here and there.

We say that what took place at the iron and steel factory is liable to recur. Will those who sit in offices come to grips with this fact? We hope so.

Mauritania

Senegalese Ambassador Declared Persona Non Grata

LD2108210189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation today issued the following press statement:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, according to the specifications of the Vienna agreement on diplomatic relations, declares today, Monday, 21 August 1989, at 1300, that the Senegalese ambassador, Mr Ousmane Camara, is declared persona non grata because of activities which are incompatible with his status and mission.

Mr Camara has been handed a notice to leave the territories of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania within 48 hours.

Minister Comments on Senegal's Breaking Ties

AB2208082089 Paris AFP in French 0732 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Dakar, 22 Aug (AFP)—Senegal assumes "full responsibility" for the break in diplomatic relations with Mauritania, said Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed when contacted by telephone from Dakar by AFP last night.

"We receive this break calmly," he said, adding: "We declared the Senegalese ambassador persona non grata because he had acted in a manner contrary to his diplomatic status, but to go to the extent of breaking diplomatic relations is a hasty step that the Senegalese have taken."

Mr Ousmane Camara, Senegalese ambassador to Nouakchott, was yesterday declared "persona non grata" by the Mauritanian authorities and was asked to leave the country within 48 hours. In reaction to this measure, Senegal announced that it was breaking diplomatic relations with Nouakchott.

Furthermore, the Mauritanian minister said that Senegal's decision is "regrettable" and "could strongly hamper the mission of the OAU." He said: "We Mauritanians are ready and prepared to listen to all Africans and to facilitate the OAU's mission, but we have noticed that Senegal is always adopting a position of hiding from reality, a rigid position." Some 10 days ago, the Egyptian head of state, Husni Mubarak, current chairman of the OAU, sent an exploratory mission to Geneva, Dakar, and Nouakchott, as part of efforts to search for a solution to the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania, which began in April of this year.

Foreign Ministry on 'Hostages' in Senegal

AB1508164889 Paris AFP in French 1212 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 15 Aug (AFP)—The Mauritanian Government today made an "urgent" call on friendly countries, international bodies, humanitarian organizations, the media, and people of good will for the release of the Mauritanian citizens whom, it says, are being "kept as hostages" by the Senegalese authorities, a Mauritanian Foreign Ministry statement has pointed out.

In the statment, the Ministry stressed on the "peculiar situation" of its citizens (it did not disclose their number), affirming that they were "being subjected to terror, misery, and horror." The Mauritanian Government, the statement added, expressed "its surprise at the silence in the face of repeated human rights violations on these people who are being kept as hostages, isolated, tracked down, and massacred for the past 4 months now. It called on everyone to contribute to releasing them."

Morocco

King Hassan II Addresses Nation 20 Aug

LD2108030589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2153 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Speech by King Hassan II on the 33d anniversary of the revolution in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] God be praised, prayers and peace be on our master the messenger of God, his family, and followers. My dear people, as you read in the newspapers or heard on the radio or saw on television, in the past few days, two African personalities visited me. They have many national problems which burden them and make them very concerned. The first was the leader of SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] in Namibia, and the second was Mr Savimbi, the leader of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. [passage omitted]

Every year on this anniversary, dear people, we talk about several issues, as you recall. But for the first time, because of those foreigners, who are African brothers, I inferred from 20 August and 16 November 1955 that before everything the unity of ranks and the unity of the nation is a must. [passage omitted]

We can see that gathering together, national reconciliation, national unity and the unity of hearts. [sentence as received] I do not say unity of opinion, never. If there were unity of opinion, then the taste of life would be bitter, and everyone with brains, reason, and free thinking would be bored and tired. No, I do not say unity of opinion. I say unity of instinct. I say unity of feeling. I say unity of citizenship and unity of hearts. [passage omitted]

I started to think of the past. I found myself facing a strange problem. Why do some of our subjects in the south and in the Sahara—and I say some—have only a short memory? On 20 August they rose in a great uprising above which we can now read and whose depth we can now see. From Terfaya, Sidi Ifni, Tan Tan, El-Ayoun, Smara, (?Boudjdour), and Dakhla they demonstrated against the Spanish, in spite of the fact that the Spanish did not touch the king of Morocco. They carried Moroccan flags and chanted slogans and demonstrated. All these deeds had never happened before. They forgot or their fathers forgot to remind them, that on 20 August they were no less patriotic than their brothers in the north. I could even say more than that. I am sure that the Saharaouis, who were under Spanish colonialism when they carried out this patriotic action, and when they showed this patriotdic understanding, conveyed across the Sahara to southern Africa—I am sure that without realizing it, as they are nomads, they taught our brother Africans, who live beyond the Sahara, lessons in patriotism. There was even an intellectual, ideological, and philosophical interaction between them and their black brothers.

The question is: Why did some of them forget what they did in their youth? And why did they forget what their fathers did as they saw what they saw? [passage omitted]

If my master and grandfather [the prophet] said: How can God be satisfied while one of my followers is in Hell, how can I, or anyone in this Moroccan family, be satisfied while one of us is outside the fold of the society and family?

My dear people, we have to know that the referendum is like an examination, in which some succeed and some fail, some win and some lose. However, I say: God, I cannot be satisfied while one member of my nation is a loser, I cannot be satisfied if one member of my nation failed. Is it not time for those who misguide or are misguided to soften their hearts? Is it not time that the Moroccan instinct, the old instinct which made Almoravids, the second state in the history of Morocco, their origin in the Moroccan Sahara, lead this country and manage it according to God's word and by the suport of the people? The Almoravids did many things, and protected Islam and pan-Arabism in the

countries outside the Arab Maghreb for centuries. Is it not time for them to review their concepts? Is it not time to believe that the homeland is all-forgiving and all-compassionate?

My dear people, I will stop here, because the words I just said are more sufficient than any speech to bring the hearts together. They should be sufficient for those who insist on pride and those who are weak not to remain outsiders and of marginal status.

The twentieth of August contains sacrifices. The king of Morocco sacrificed his throne and his children and their future. The Moroccan people sacrificed their sons and daughters. [passage omitted]

I pray to God that the misguided will return to their reason, and that they believe that when Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Yousuf Ben Hassan, God's servant, says that the homeland is all-forgiving and all-compassionate, he is not saying it lightly, but he is saying it with all the responsibilities and commitments of this word in his name and in the name of all Moroccans. [passage omitted]

King Grants Pardons on Revolution Anniversary

LD1908155189 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 19 (MAP)—King Hassan II has granted free pardon to a number of prisoners on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the revolution of the king and the people celebrated by Morocco on August 20.

In this respect, 315 prisoners were granted the royal pardon for the remainder of their imprisonment sentence, a detainee was granted pardon for the imprisonment sentence but will have to pay the fine, and 28 detainees were granted reduction in their sentence.

Two detainees were granted royal pardon both for the imprisonment sentence and for the fines and one detainee will have his life sentence commuted to term sentence.

Sudan

SPLA, Government Mediators Comment on Talks

NC2108161589 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, Aug 21 (AFP)—Two days of talks between the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudanese Government ended here with "agreement to disagree," rebel delegation leader Lam Akol said Monday.

But a Khartoum government representative said that the talks, the first since the June 30 coup which brought General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to power, had been a step forward and agreement reached to meet again at an unspecified date.

Commander Akol said the SPLA had met the military government in talks here Saturday and Sunday because it had expected it to come up with a clear program. He told journalists the government had shown that it had no peace plan and had rejected the SPLA's program, which was based on two earlier accords—the 1986 Koka Dam agreement and the 1988 agreement with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Commander Akol said he saw no reason to hold further talks "until the junta accepts our program or something nearer to it."

Central to the SPLA demands was the "democratic participation of all political parties to bring about a lasting peace" in the context of a constitutional conference, he said.

The SPLA insisted on the removal from the statute book of the penal code of Islamic shari'a law because it was "undemocratic and divisive." The Sudanese junta "must change its policies in a radical way," he said. "There is no way you can bring about peace under a dictatorship."

SPLA leader John Garang said last Tuesday that peace could only be achieved in the six-year-old war if the junta resigned and was replaced by a democratic government. He threatened to incite an uprising if it did not.

Earlier a member of the Sudanese Government delegation, Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi, said of the weekend talks, "I am satisfied that we made a step forward, although we accept it will be a long process in total." He read out a joint statement which described the discussions as "frank and serious" and said it had been agreed to resume talks at a date to be agreed upon.

Commander Akol said the talks could not be described as having collapsed because "we parted amicably with no animosity or hard feeling."

The SPLA has been fighting for the creation of a secular state throughout Sudan to free the mainly Christian and animist south from Islamic domination by the north.

A government cease-fire is currently in force and the SPLA, which won a series of military victories early this year, is observing a de facto cease-fire.

'Channel of Communication' Formed

EA2108173989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has sent a letter to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, which was delivered by the government delegation currently visiting the Ethiopian capital. The delegation is led by Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC, who delivered the letter during a meeting with the Ethiopian president, yesterday.

President Mengistu promised to try to promote the negotiations between the Sudanese Government and Garang's movement in an effort to achieve peace.

Meanwhile, the negotiations between the government delegation led by Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and that of Garang's movement, led by Dr Lam Akol Ajawin ended last night in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The press statement issued at the end of the meeting described the talks as having been serious and frank, and it said the two sides have resolved to continue the dialogue at a time to be agreed upon. Staff Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahwi, member of the higher information committee, stated that the two sides had agreed to form a permanent channel of communication between them.

Commentary on 'Failed' Talks

EA2108172489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Hello, listeners. As you all know, the new regime in Khartoum and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] met on 19 and 20 August. You might also have heard from Radio SPLA that the two sides were unlikely to reach agreement.

I would like to tell you why the meeting in Addis Ababa failed: The meeting failed because the Khartoum regime's delegation came for something that we in the SPLA will never accept: They want to deceive us, as with the Anyanya I agreement, which was signed in Addis Ababa in 1972. They told us that they had come to solve the southern problem. However, since our movement was never fighting over the so-called southern problem, we told them that we were nationalists, fighting to liberate the entire country and not just southern Sudan. This is because of the problems which we know exist throughout the country. [passage omitted]

This is why we are not talking and will never talk about the so-called southern problem. If the regime wants to talk to us, it must be ready to discuss with us the problems of the whole country of Sudan.

We all know that the past and the present regimes have not wanted to accept that Sudan as a country has problems, because they want to continue oppressing the neglected Sudanese. However, those same people, whom the regime wants to continue oppressing, are the people for whom we took up arms.

Another reason for the failure of this meeting was that the regime had rejected the previous agreements, such as Koka dam, which were signed by the SPLM/SPLA and the Sudanese political forces and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]. Those agreements, however, were the only way to achieve peace in Sudan. The regime's reason for rejecting these agreements was that it wished to continue the war in Sudan.

The other issue is that of shari'a law. Our movement called for scrapping the shari'a. The regime on the other hand insists that shari'a be put to referendum, an idea our movement rejects.

The regime also said the SPLA should sign a cease-fire agreement with it. The SPLA said the ongoing cease-fire had been announced by them, and if the regime wants the SPLA to announce another cease-fire, it should first endorse the SPLA/DUP agreement.

We have called on the regime to scrap all the agreements it has signed with other countries, shari'a law, and the state of emergency, and it has refused. What kind of talks does the regime want? How can the war come to an end when the regime in Khartoum is unable to comply with what we want it to do? The war will definitely not stop under these conditions. These are the reasons why the talks in Addis Ababa failed. [passage omitted]

Rebel Commentary Denounces Military Government

EA1808212389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] We return now to our conversation about the current situation because all people return, because no military dictatorship can make anyone deviate, and because we belong to a people of high [word indistinct] determination, and might, whose name is the Sudanese people. We are very proud to belong to it. [passage omitted]

Fascism is the enemy of the people and democratic forces. This is clear even without the floods of fascist statements which have set the country back decades [word indistinct]. Talk about the corruption of parties and repugnant sectarianism can neither hide nor belittle this. This is not the way to market goods. The goods of a military clique thirsting for power are most undesirable. The military clique has taken over legislative and executive power, the Defense Ministry and the Army General Command. All this power is vested in one man, one of the Muslim brother cadres in the Army, who is called Colonel or Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. All these powers were placed in his hands in one night.

Meanwhile, we in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] remain the ones struggling against sectarianism. We know that sectarianism can never be eliminated by giving orders or issuing statements. Numayri, who stands in close proximity to this coup, did that. After 16 years sectarianism returned again because its material existence and its political,

intellectual, and cultural influence had not been eradicated. Sectarianism cannot be cancelled out by way of capitalist evolution, for the former and the latter are merely two sides of the same coin competing for power.

The current military clique has no alternative program of social and political transformation. The clique itself belongs to those social groups interested in the development of capitalism. What has not been mentioned is that the regime that has taken over power today is more fascist, reactionary, opposed to the popular interest, and foreign in nature than the former regime. This is shown by the shameless way it sought support from foreign forces to bring it to power. [passage omitted]

Our people's movement is engaged in an armed struggle and a mass struggle which will not [word indistinct] or bow down. Its features are shaped by our blood and its teeth grow out of our sacrifices. Our youths supply it with courage and determination. It is the masses that make history. The citizen of the new Sudan emanates from the pinnacle of original, patriotic, and democratic thinking. As each day dawns, be ready for our people who are coming. Be ready for the bringing to justice of those who have harmed the people, for we shall never countenance or forgive deviation.

The fascism of this clique became crystal-clear when they dissolved all the ruling institutions, including Parliament, banned political parties and legal trade union activity. We understand the hatred these forces harbor for the Sudanese trade union movement and its courage and heroism. Whoever believes that this sort of thing is going to work is dreaming. Agitation and doubt have clearly appeared in successive statements setting out their position on the trade unions.

We know that this coup was plotted by the movement of Muslim brothers and pro-Numayri elements. Colonel—not Lieutenant General—'Umar Hasan al-Bashir is a member of that grouping. We know this for a fact and we shall divulge all his history and his links with the Muslim brothers in due course. We have already warned patriotic elements about his activities in the Army on behalf of the Muslim brothers. AL-DUSTUR magazine also wrote about him. SPLA radio talked about him when we held a dialogue with the Waat garrison. We shall return to this topic.

We know that this military council is not homogeneous. Col 'Umar tried to assure its members that he would not repeat Numayri's mistakes. But in a subsequent development he exempted the members of the Revolutionary Council from this stipulation. However, what is plain and patent is that the movement of the Muslim brothers is [word indistinct] to exploit some of the experiences of the past. For tactical reasons, it is now seeking to avoid confrontation so as to take over power later. Because of its evil history and ugly face, it wants to keep a low profile for the time being. But no one can trifle with the Sudanese people or deceive them except those who have sunk to such a low intellectual and moral level as the grouping of Muslim brothers. Death sentences for treason and 10 years jail for showing opposition will never frighten our people. Such punishments are not unprecedented. Those who imposed them will realize this in future. Primary school children will come to demonstrate against them before anyone else. Thus our courageous people's experiences will be asserted.

Foolish and empty chatter about a rebel movement and outlaws is as monotonous as worn-out phonograph records. First of all, speaking logically, someone who took power in a tank at night, who dissolved all the ruling institutions, has no right to use the word "rebels" to describe those who have been struggling for 6 years and who have a clear program and goals. Have those generals not yet developed a sense of perspective?

Now we come to the nonsense about the south and the issue of peace. It deceives no one. No one can talk about southern problems unless he wants to meet the former leaders of Anyanya I. The grouping of Muslim brothers can negotiate with them if they like, because we know this is on the agenda of the Muslim brothers. [passage omitted]

We are a Sudanese movement, flesh and blood. We are another stanza of the poem. We are a Sudanese movement calling for unity, justice, equality, and elimination of the military clique. We know that it is not by chance that you are talking about the problem of the south. We know that you are warmongers. We are fully prepared. Stop this wailing about lack of support for the Army and neglect of it. There is a garrison that fell. Did it not have weapons? Where did these tanks and artillery which were found in every garrison come from?

The SPLA has aims, a just cause, and a philosophy of liberation. That is our tethering-post. We warn the military clique in this manner, for its fruits are bitter. We warn it once more not to suppress our people, because blood will be answered with blood, torture with torture, tooth for tooth, an eye for an eye, and the tyrant is [word indistinct]. The road to hell [words indistinct] which the people will not choose to march down.

He who looks properly at the current pro-Numayri and Muslim brothers' regime, led by the military clique, will see how weak they are. He will have noticed from the outset the widespread nature of the opposition forces belonging to all the various social and political sections of the people. The sacred duty of our people and its mass forces is to regain the initiative, their right and freedom of organization, expression, and demonstration; to unite around specific political demands, so as to broaden, collect, and unify the forces of our people without

leaving anyone out. Let our first battle be for the restoration of trade union legitimacy. We should foil any attempt to bring them under the control of the authorities, to isolate them from the national democratic forces and to make them submit to various laws and regulations. [passage omitted]

Let us regain the initiative by closing ranks, reassembling the forces of our people, and demanding the release of all political detainees, abrogation of the emergency law, and an end to arbitrary arrests. This regime is not lawful. It has no right to try anyone on charges of corruption or anything else. Only our people are entitled to do that. We know that the regime harbors a deep hatred for our people's democratic forces and is looking for opportunities to liquidate them. For this reason, care and vigilance should be exercised more than ever before in our history.

Let us make proper arrangements for overt and covert action, mustering more skill than ever before to (?avert) any needless (?damage) [words indistinct], killing and negligence or attempts at terrorism and saber-rattling, as manifested in the flood of fascist laws issued by the military clique. The SPLM/SPLA will stand as guardians of our people. The SPLA is like the people and an integral part of the people. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Crown Prince Interviewed on Lebanon Crisis

JN1708174089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Aug 89 p 9

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Excerpt] The Arab world is indeed at very important crossroads. For analysts and observers, it is a matter of conjecture and analysis. Observers, with all the information they possess will still remain short of drawing the right picture of events

This scenario, prompted me to meet the people at the helm of affairs and what follows is the result of an interview with HH the Crown Prince of Bahrain, Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah. The wide-ranging interview dealt with the burning issue of Lebanon, the present affairs in the Gulf and the outlook for the future.

The present course of events in Lebanon are very regrettable, the Crown Prince of Bahrain Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah said and added: "Lebanon is truly horrifying sight because it depicts vividly the catastrophies of a full-fledged inter-Arab war with the usage of modern destructive armaments and no-holds barred."

The dignitary voiced his concern that more parties could get embroiled in the on-going conflict. This fear stems from the real possibility that any one of the present sides could seek assistance form other Arab forces. Should this be the course of events, the Arab-Arab fight will expand and more Arab sides will be involved, Al Khalifah said and added that his fears are further compounded with the unfortunate possibility that we could find ourselves involved in a war not unlike the Iran-Iraq war.

Elucidating, Al Khalifah said that he believes there is real concern that a similar war like the Gulf war may erupt in Lebanon in the future. "I believe that I am not alone in expressing this point of view. Many other voices echo my fears" Al Khalifah added.

The Crown Prince went on to say that several dignitaries and men of letters have been urging the three-man Arab committee to resume its efforts. With reason and wisdom prevailing, it is possible to overcome this misery which is hurting the very core of Arab and non-Arabs alike. We urgently desire that the three-man Arab committee resumes its efforts as the present situation in Lebanon is not pleasing to any one.

Asked in the event the committee resumed its efforts and encountered the same obstacles underlined in its previous statement, a call to convene an emergency Arab summit should be undertaken, the Crown Prince replied: The tripartite committee was offered six months by the Casbalanca summit to complete its mission and submit its report to an Arab conference to be convened especially for this purpose. However, if there should be a need to convene an emergency summit before the lapse of the six-month deadline, through unanimous Arab agreement, we are quite ready to attend the summit and we are equally willing to participate in any Arab get-together at any level or any venue.

Continuing, Al Khalifah said: "Blood flows profusely in Lebanon—the war is just a crazy war and the massacre this time is being perpetrated by Arab hands. It is imperative that we rush to deal with the situation bravely and on a basis of urgency."

On the issue of whether the Iran-Iraq war has in effect ended or it is a state of transient peace that could soon give way to war again, the Crown Prince said that peace could prevail with no preliminary agreements. However, war could flare despite peace agreement. The issue here is one of justification. Peace has its own justifications and so has war—the stronger will prevail. Every one desire peace, yet everyone continues to arm himself in a mad frenzy. For peace to prevail, he maintained, direct contacts between the warring parties is essential. This is the situation between Iraq and Iran. However, the situation in Lebanon threatens the aformentioned assumption. Hence, we cannot help wondering what the outcome would be if Iraq intervened directly in the war.

Undoubtedly, there will be a fierce Syrian-Iraqi confrontation and the strong Iranian presence in Lebanon would not keep Iran out of the picture. The question here is: Has the Gulf war been geographically relocated. Hence, we say that the war in Lebanon must come to an end. Arabs must play their national duty to see an end to this war and ensure that the current inter-Arab war in Lebanon does not serve as a link to another war. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Calls For End to Lebanese Crisis

LD2108201589 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, once again called on the Lebanese today to let the voice of reason and wisdom prevail over the voices of guns and explosions, and to work toward sparing the blood of the innocent of the fraternal Lebanese people.

He also called on the Lebanese to look after the interests of the country and their territorial integrity.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told the press that Kuwait has not yet received the report of the Arab tripartite committee delegated to deal with the Lebanese crisis.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discusses Lebanon

LD2108204889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over today's Council of Ministers session on Monday, the afternoon of 21 August 1989 at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA, explaining that as is usual and in accordance with its august directives, today's session began with a summary of reports on the political, security, and economic situation in the Arab region. The new developments over the past few days were then followed up, by means of which the council went on to discuss some of the probable events in light of the current situation in the Arab region in general. The information minister said:

"In line with the continuous interests of the Saudi Government in the developments of the situation in the Lebanese arena, the council followed with great concern the news about the continuation of the fierce battles and the exchange of shelling between the two sides of Beirut.

"The council also read all the statements and communiques issued by the Lebanese leaders and reviewed the Arab and international appeals calling for immediate actions toward a cease-fire and stressing the support to the efforts being exerted toward establishing peace in Lebanon."

Minister al-Sha'ir continued:

"On this issue, the custodian of the two holy mosques explained to the council some of his views concerning the situation in fraternal Lebanon. He said:

"'In my personal view, I think that it is possible to treat matters in a more optimistic and flexible atmosphere when the positions, to which I referred, are changed for the better, and therefore when all the leaders concerned with the Lebanese crisis and the reasons for its continuation have a sincere wish to proceed toward a better position within the solutions offered for the crisis.'

"The king continued:

"'I have no doubt that the Lebanese leaders, from all sects, with their wisdom understand the graveness of the situation faced by the fraternal people of Lebanon. The situation has been deteriorating severely every day, even every hour, over the recent period as more innocent victims fall dead or injured and the remainders of the Lebanese economy and civilization are being ruined.'

"The custodian of the two holy mosques said:

"'Starting from this belief, I have not yet lost hope that the responsible leaders will hasten to adopt the hoped-for response to the peace efforts and the hoped-for response to the repeated sincere appeals from everybody to cease fire and lift the siege from the sea ports and open the closed passages across the hot lines between the two parts of Beirut, thereby creating a suitable atmosphere for starting a dialogue on proposed political reforms.'

"In his address, the king stressed the continuous Saudi commitment to restore normal life to fraternal Lebanon. He said:

"'This is what we aspire to and work for with all possible means, while completely preserving the independence of Lebanon and its territorial integrity and the national unity of its Arab people.'"

Minister al-Sha'ir said:

"The council then studied some issues concerning local affairs and adopted the necessary resolutions on them." [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Tanker Crash in Arabian Gulf Reported

JN2108161289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] London, 21 Aug (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance corporation has stated that a Liberian oil tanker called "Gulf Grant" [name as received] today crashed with the hulk of a Panamanian oil tanker, which was hit during the Iraq-Iran war, near the port of Jubayl in the Arabian Gulf.

In a telegram sent this afternoon to the INA bureau in London, Lloyds stated that the incident resulted in the leak of large quantities of crude oil from the Liberian tanker, which weighs 22,044 tonnes when empty. It also stated that there is a danger of pollution to the waters near the port of Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates."

The British corporation cited sources in the Arabian Gulf as saying that the incident did not result in any casualties among the crew of the tanker "Gulf Grant," which is managed by the NNR Bukf Maritime Company [name as received] whose headquarters are in Tonsberg, Norway.

Information Minister's Remarks to VOA on Lebanon

JN2208074089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, 21 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that the conspiracy that Lebanon is exposed to is aimed at not only fragmenting Lebanon and partitioning it into conflicting sectarian mini states, but against all the Arab countries.

In a statement to a VOA correspondent, the culture and information minister described the Lebanese crisis as one of the most serious issues in the Arab homeland, saying that a solution to it should come from the Arabs through dialogue and convening an emergency Arab summit.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim rejected attempts to internationalize the Lebanese crisis and called for settling it through dialogue. He pointed out that the plan aimed at partitioning Lebanon constitutes a serious and direct threat to the Palestine question. The minister said Iraq is currently holding consultations with the fraternal Arab countries to crystallize a final stand that would lead to a summit.

The culture and information minister denounced the Syrian-Iranian alliance against Lebanon and described it as a new conspiracy against the Arab homeland, a step aimed at moving the Gulf war from the Iraqi-Iranian borders to Beirut. He shed light on the nature of this alliance and the military front that was formed between the two sides, as represented by their militias and parties in Lebanon.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said this same front faced us when we were at war with Iran and after it was buried on the eastern border of the Arab homeland, it was moved to Lebanon. He said: However, we are certain the Arab nation will rise against this monster which has bared its teeth and is coordinating with Zionism and the Iranian regime.

The minister reiterated Iraq's rejection of internationalizing the Lebanese crisis, and foreign intervention in Arab affairs. He stressed that if the Arabs do not find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, this will mean they will be unable to settle future problems and will allow others to covet them.

The minister stressed: We believe the danger is very serious and threatens the Palestine question, as well as the Arab nation and its security. This requires that the solution be an Arab one.

Concluding his statement, the culture and information minister warned against slowness in achieving a solution to the Lebanese crisis as this would push others into seeking help from this or that party, which harms the Arabs and Arab conscience.

Chadian President Habre Leads Delegation on Visit

Arrives in Baghdad 19 Aug

JN1908190089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Chadian President Hissein Habre arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a several-day state visit to Iraq. The Chadian guest was accorded an official welcome led by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest at the airport VIP lounge, the president and his guest drove in a state motorcade through Baghdad to the residence where the Chadian leader will be staying.

President Hissein Habre is accompanied by a delegation comprising Angie Yawee, second deputy to the head of the National Consultative Council; Acheikh Ibn Oumar, minister of foreign relations; Adoum Moussa Seif, minister of information and civic orientation; Amos Reoulangar, minister of trade and industry; and Bishara Idriss Haggar and Moumine Togoi Hamadi, members of the Executive Bureau of the National Union for Independence and Revolution. The Chadian delegation also includes the director of the President's Office and other officials.

Jasim Receives Information Minister

JN2008160689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi culture and information minister, today received Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian minister of information and civic orientation. During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote present and future cooperation.

Official Talks Begin

JN2008173289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The official talks between Iraq and Chad began in Baghdad this evening. The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by President leader Saddam Husayn; the Chadian side by Chadian President Hissein Habre. The talks dealt with the close and friendly relations of cooperation and ways to promote them in all areas to serve the joint interests of the two friendly countries.

Chadian President Hissein Habri expressed his congratulations to President Saddam Husayn on the achievement of victory and peace. He also reiterated his condolences on the death of founder leader comrade Michel 'Aflaq and the death of Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah. The talks also tackled developments in the region as well as Arab and international issues of common interest.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Arshad al-Zibari, minister of state and head of the mission of honor escorting the guest president; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Chad. On the Chadian side, the talks were attended by Al-Nabi Bawin, second deputy chairman of the National Consultative Council; Acheikh Ibn-Oumar, minister of foreign relations; Adoum Moussa Seif, minister of information and civic orientation; Bichara Idriss Haggar and Moumine Togoi Hamadi, members of the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution; Ahmed Moussa Beij, director of the President's Office; and the Chadian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives Industry Minister

JN2108154689 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 21, INA—Iraqi Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan met here today with visiting Chadian Industry and Trade Minister Amos Reoulanger and the accompany delegation.

Referring to President Saddam Husayn's directives concerning setting up strategic and extensive relations with Chad, Mr Ramadan stressed that the strong relations between Iraq and Chad had been featured with development, which signified joint keenness for boosting them.

Mr Ramadan affirmed that there were various avenues of cooperation between the two countries, pointing to the necessity that the present and future stage witness a distinguished development in bilateral ties and expanded cooperation in favour of the two countries' interests.

The Chadian minister expressed his country's satisfaction over the development of its relations with Iraq.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN2108193589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Chad tonight signed an agreement on trade, economic, technical, and scientific cooperation. The agreement stipulates increasing and diversifying trade cooperation, participation in exhibitions, and establishing trade centers in the two countries.

The agreement—which was signed for Iraq by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and for Chad by Commerce and Industry Minister Amos Reoulangar—calls for setting up a ministerial committee to coordinate cooperation, which will meet periodically in Baghdad and Ndjamena.

'Aziz Receives Chadian Counterpart

JN2108200789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here today Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh Ibn-Oumar. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in all fields in a manner that will serve their mutual interests.

They also reviewed the latest developments in the region, particularly the negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, the situation in Lebanon, and a number of issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chief of the Foreign Ministry's Second Political Department, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Chad. On the Chadian side the meeting was attended by Abdul Kadir Yassen, adviser at the Presidency; and the Chadian ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Receives Habre

JN2208083889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Chadian President Hissein Habre at the Saqr al-Qadisiyah Palace this evening. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the developed relations between Iraq and Chad and discussed means to promote various spheres of bilateral cooperation.

Sudanese Finance Minister Arrives 19 Aug

JN1908095689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Sudanese Finance Minister Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki arrived in Baghdad this morning leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq scheduled to last several days.

During the visit, the Sudanese minister will meet with Iraqi Finance Ministry officials to discuss means of developing bilateral relations in the financial and banking fields.

Received by 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN2008113489 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 20, INA—Vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim received here today the Sudanese Finance Minister, Mr. 'Ali Zaki.

During the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim received a written message from Brig. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice-chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan concerning relations between the two brotherly countries. Bilateral relations and means of developing them between the two countries were discussed at the meeting.

The Sudanese minister expressed his country's thanks and appreciation for the Iraqi Government and people for the attitude in support of Sudan.

Rabin: No Negotiations on Release of POW's

TA2208085389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that there are no negotiations whatsoever under way for the release of the POW's and, consequently, there is nothing new on the matter. Speaking to our correspondent in Haifa Qobi Mandel during a visit to the Air Force Technical School, the defense minister made the following remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] Unfortunately, there are no negotiations at this stage. Therefore, there can be nothing new regarding Israel's direct and indirect activities. Nevertheless, one should bear in mind that the transfer of Shaykh 'Ubayd to Israel brought the issue of our kidnapped and missing POW's, as well as that of the Western hostages, to the attention of the international public, at least as far as the media is concerned. Had it not been for this move, I doubt that there would have been any chance to see significant movement on the issue of bringing our soldiers back home. I stress: What has emerged is a chance, not a certainty. We will tirelessly go on looking for any possible channel to hold contacts which may, in one way or another, bring our soldiers back home. [end recording]

Further on Rabin's Remarks

TA2208093789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that up to now there have been no direct or indirect contacts regarding the release of the hostages in Lebanon, adding that there is nothing new on the matter.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Rabin made these statements while visiting the Israeli Air Force Technical School in Tel Aviv.

Rabin stated that an investigation has been launched into the leak of details from Shaykh 'Ubayd's interrogation to THE SUNDAY TIMES, according to which the Israeli soldiers held hostage in Lebanon are said to have died shortly after being captured. Rabin reiterated that until proven differently, the Israeli Government considers all prisoners and those missing in action to be alive.

Minister Rabin asserted that between 60 to 70 percent of all those murdered on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities had not been working for Israel. Rabin said that the Defense Ministry is worried by the murders because it regards itself as responsible for the safety of all those living in the territories.

Minister Rabin also officially confirmed reports that Iraqi Air Force spy planes had conducted reconnaissance flights in Jordanian airspace along the Israeli border. Rabin said that the Iraqis have discontinued these flights.

Sela' To Go on 'Indefinite Leave Without Pay'

TA2208094189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Air Force Colonel Avi'em Sela', who was the controller of the spy Jonathan Pollard, will soon go on indefinite leave without pay. This was recently decided by the top echelons of the Army and the Defense Ministry. 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that Sela' will probably be employed in a branch of the defense establishment. It seems that he will not return to military service and will be released from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Our military correspondent notes that granting leave without pay to an officer as senior as Sela' is not customary in the Army. In this case, however, it has been decided to follow this procedure due to the special circumstances.

Until a few months ago Colonel Sela', who is "wanted" in the United States, served as a senior instructor at the National Defense College after the Americans vetoed his promotion to brigadier general and his appointment to command the Tel Nof base. Until his blunder in the Pollard affair, Sela' was considered a leading candidate for commander of the Air Force.

Ever since the affair exploded in the United States, Israel's political top echelons have been vigorously trying to persuade the U.S. Administration to remove its objection to Sela's promotion and to cancel his "wanted" status. In the past few months, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein held talks with senior U.S. officials on the matter, but to no avail.

When it became clear in Israel that the new U.S. Administration is not planning to let go of Avi'em Sela', an agreement was reached that he would go on indefinite leave without pay. Several months ago Colonel Sela' started working as a special Air Force consultant at the El-Op factory. Elements in the plant who were in conflict with its management leaked the fact of his employment there to the U.S. press. This was followed by U.S. objections to his employment in the factory, which maintains production ties with the United States.

Little Optimism Held for Trends in U.S. Ties

TA2108135389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Aug 89 p 9

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "Israel-United States—Disquieting Nuances"]

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser has the right to hold a different view, but the truth is that relations between the unequal partners, the United States and Israel, are no longer the same as they were previously. The deterioration was actually predictable: As far back

as the presidential race we realized that neither Bush nor Dukakis would be as spontaneous and sensitive in their sympathy toward us as was the case during the Reagan era, and that neither would place the same significance on the political-strategic ties that George Shultz did.

The aforementioned deterioration—the expression is perhaps too blunt—for the time being finds expression in mutual coolness at the top level—between Bush and Shamir, and Baker and Arens—and in the somewhat disquieting nuances in the communications between the two countries. One might downplay the importance of these types of changes, and attribute them to some disorder in the new administration's learning process, but since we know the characters on the scene for both sides, and their inclinations, as well as the overt and covert circumstances which led to the development of these relations between the two countries, it is difficult to be optimistic about future trends.

Tom Friedman wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES over the weekend—in reference to the American hostage issue—that Israeli-U.S. relations have recently been tense to the point of explosion. Israeli spokesmen deny the description (they say tension has eased a great deal since the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd from the village of Jibshit), and U.S. sources are warning against exaggerating the gravity of the differences of opinion.

But, only a fool would say that Friedman did not have ulterior motives in describing the latest facts in the relations between the two countries: He was used, although not against his wishes, as the conduit of a message whose sender is firmly ensconced in the White House and close to the President, the addressees of which are Shamir and associates, as well as the political community in the United States and Israel. The message translates into simple Hebrew as: "Israelis be warned, because President Bush is angry, and this anger found expression in Senator Dole's well-recalled speech. Nobody knows what the long-range outcome of the President's anger will be."

It should be recalled in this connection that the dispute over Shaykh 'Ubayd's kidnapping is not the only quarrel between Washington and Jerusalem. It is true that the Shaykh 'Ubayd-American hostages affair is of marginal importance capable of waking the American public out of its summer slumber for a day or two. This is not the case with the ongoing dialogue with the PLO, which is of interest to only several thousand involved people.

But Yitzhaq Shamir has not—and will not—forgive them for that. He does not cease voicing public anger with the administration. The President and the secretary of state do not appreciate the criticism, and are certainly not prepared to agree to Israel dictating to the United States with whom it has the right to talk. There is no doubt that the ongoing dispute over the peace initiative (of which the contacts in Tunis between Ambassador Pelletreau and 'Arafat's emissaries are part) is a permanent issue of greater political importance than the 'Ubayd affair. In other words, Friedman wrote about the hostage dispute, but meant the Israeli-U.S. dispute over the PLO's role in the peace process.

The Eretz Yisra'el issue will continue to concern the political leaderships in Jerusalem and Washington. The Americans and Yitzhaq Shamir each have their own concepts on the subject: There is no power on earth which can make them converge. The only consensus between the two leaderships is the election plan, but the Americans believe that it should lead to a permanent settlement. The United States suspects that Shamir and associates will try to avoid implementing the plan if the United States manages to drag the PLO into accepting it. It is possible that if these U.S. suspicions are strengthened—the unpleasant atmosphere in the contacts between the two leaderships might contribute to it—and especially if 'Arafat and his envoys contribute their part to torpedoing the peace initiative that the Bush administration has taken under its auspices, the Americans will withdraw their mediation efforts. Even if they do it with a feeling that a load has been lifted from them, in public they will express their disappointment, and place part of the blame on Israel.

Almost blind optimism is required to view future relations with the United States in a rosier light. What was set out before as a possible scenario is actually a highly likely forecast. But those who draw the conclusion—perhaps in West Europe or the United States—that a rift between the two countries is imminent are mistaken.

What sounds like just rhetoric by official spokesmen who praise the firm ties between the United States and Israel is the actual truth. But while during the Reagan era there were also other things which sweetened the required minimum for the existence of the relationship, in the Bush administration they should not be expected. The coolness and sour faces are permanent, and originate in part due to the personalities who run the administration and in part due to real differences of opinion. Why have the differences so far not led—and will not lead in the foreseeable future—to a rupture? The answer is simple: In the final analysis, for the United States, Palestine—its establishment and its borders—is not a question of life or death.

Commentary Sees No Partner for Peace Talks

TA1808133389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 89 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Is This a Partner?"]

[Text] As you observe events on the other side, you cannot help but ask yourself—with a feeling of nausea—what type of people are these, damn it? The Syrians kill off their brethren—women, elderly people, and children—in a show of cruelty that makes Attila the Hun look like a humanist. Between them, the Iranians and the

Iraqis have managed to send 1 million Arabs to heaven, and Iraq is currently on the lookout for new Arabs to slaughter. Having killed each other, the Shiites are now taking hostages who have done nothing to them, torturing them mercilessly. They dragged poor Joseph Cicippio before the video cameras to beg for his life and bid his wife a tearful goodbye, making him believe that he was about to die. But why? What kind of kicks do they get out of it, or what advantages does it give them? Who is it that we have to deal with? How will we ever reach an understanding with the likes of such human beings?

Brutal incidents also occur among the Arabs in the territories. An Arab from Gaza buried his brother alive in a pit he dug himself. He and a group of others beat him over the head even as they were filling the pit with sand. In Nabulus, an Arab was brought to the cemetery where his head was chopped off with an axe. Another Nabulus Arab was stabbed 150 times with a knife before he died—turning the axe into a benevolent implement. The papers ran a story about a man who was hanged on an electrical pole with a shoe stuck in his mouth, but failed to report on how a Gazan was first hacked with an axe, then run over by a car, and then his body was burned. About 10 cases have been reported in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (with probably many more unreported incidents) in which Arabs' ears were lopped off because "those who do not listen to our instructions have no need for ears."

What kind of people are these with whom we are expected to reach a settlement and develop good neighborly relations? How can one even begin to reach some sort of arrangement with these people, seeing that the moment things start moving, chances are they will kill each other—first for actually engaging in a dialogue with Israel, and certainly later when progress is made and they are asked to make concessions. Then Syria, to which the idea of a Palestinian state is anathema, will shell the civilian population in the territories, while the Iraqis will inch along from the side, via Jordan—which has not really given up the West Bank—to decimate them in order to determine who will ultimately control this Palestinian entity.

The world has been reprimanding us for our inflexibility, but the truth is gradually dawning that right now we have no partner. We lack a partner for an arrangement, for a compromise, or even for talks. By the 21st month of the intifadah [uprising] approximately 570 Arabs were killed by Israeli hands, approximately 15,000 were injured, and 40,000 Palestinians experienced some form of imprisonment. Some figures, some load! Yet at the same time, Jordan forsook them to wallow in their woe, and the Emirates fired tens of thousands of Palestinians and sent them packing.

The economic situation in the territories is worsening, and still there is not even a dim light at the end of the tunnel. Not because the intifadah is waning, but because, as usual, they are again exercising their inexhaustible talent for missing every opportunity to reach a compromise with us. Ever since the Peele Commission's report in 1936, which offered a partition of the land, to this very day they have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity for reaching a compromise with us.

There have been moments during the intifadah when it seemed that the heavens were beginning to smile down on the Palestinians. The whole world sympathized with them. 'Arafat was crowned president, while the PLO executive declared independence. The United States began talking to the PLO. They even forced Shamir, who does not like to budge, to offer elections for a semblance of Palestinian government and self-rule ad interim. Had they grabbed the offer forthwith, Israel would have found itself under enormous U.S. pressure to evacuate large segments of the territories, and the whole process could have been routed onto a solid road. But they have not been able to bring themselves to do it. They want all or nothing, and if it is not all, then they are not talking.

What they lack is a kind of Ben-Gurion: a pragmatist who prefers to snatch whatever is offered the moment it is offered, and who does not dig in his heels, stubbornly insisting on receiving all, only to be left with nothing.

The Palestinians have never understood—nor do they understand even today—that no arrangement can be reached without a compromise, that there cannot be a compromise without a dialogue, and that it is necessary to talk to someone. The one they have now is Shamir, and he is the one they will have in the future as well, even if his name is not actually Shamir. Consequently, the local population in the territories has been left exhausted and tired. The Americans are also growing tired of them, and even 'Arafat confessed to being worn out. Yet, like the proverbial scorpion which cannot go against its nature and must sting itself, so the official Palestinian leadership is incapable of overcoming its knack for throwing a monkeywrench into its own works. Meanwhile, all the enlightened Arab countries, including Egypt, which have come out with high and mighty statements, have done nothing—beyond paying lip service—to knock some pragmatic sense into the poor Palestinians' heads. Thus, instead of euphoria, there is growing despair and frustration that finds expression in mutual slaughters—a phenomenon that might spread.

The Fatah convention declaration on stepping up the "armed struggle" did not contribute to alleviating the Israeli public's apprehensions. Instead, it merely served to make the inflexible strata even more intransigent. Worse than that, it has shut the door on the possibility that partners could be found among the population in the territories who secretly want to start a dialogue with us, even if his presidential highness 'Arafat does not allow them "to determine their future themselves," as per the Camp David accords. Those inhabitants of the territories who are prepared to make compromises—and some defense establishment sources believe there are such people—will never dare come out in the open. Who,

after all, wants to have his ears and tongue cut off, or find himself scalped, hanging on an electricity pole, or buried alive, run over by a car, and burned?

The intifadah has not waned, but neither has it won. It has become a routine which more and more Israelis are beginning to think is tolerable. We are no longer visiting them anyhow, so it is only a matter of time before they stop coming to us. The popular uprising is slowly disappearing from world headlines, and certainly has not prevented George Bush from taking his August trout fishing vacation. Besides, whatever we do not do to them, they will do to themselves—anything to avoid talking about a territorial compromise (yes, on their side too!). As a result, waving their "all or nothing" banner, they are left with nothing. The extremists will thus rule the land, both here and there, for another 40 years. What a miss! What a miss!

Likud Reaction to Palestinian Meetings Feared

TA2008101389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
20 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by the political correspondent and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has recently held meetings with prominent leaders from the territories. These are conducted in closed forums to prevent leaks. The notables are asked not to leak any information about the talks to the press. Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, screens the candidates for these meetings.

It seems that Arens fears that word of these meetings and the publication of his interlocutors' names might be a cause for serious problems for him within the Likud. It was reported from the minister's office that the closed forums and the secrecy were intended to allow the Palestinians to present their views freely, without fear of the reactions of extremist and violent Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Shomron Faults Nation's 'Staying Power'

TA1808121789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
18 Aug 89 p B8

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by 'Amos Gilbo'a: "We Have No Staying Power;" date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Gilbo'a] If no political solution is found, could the intifadah [uprising] drag the Arab countries into war?

[Shomron] The Arab states have not begun a war against us because of their high estimation of our strength, and their belief that the results of such a war would be detrimental for them. They will eventually lose, and achieve no political gains. Therefore, I see no direct connection between the intifadah and war. The Arab countries know, of course, that in a war we will not fire rubber bullets, and that there is no foundation to the occasional doubts expressed in Israel as to how the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] could possibly cope with the Arab armies if it cannot prevent stone throwing.

But if the Arab states ever begin to really believe that the intifadah is wearing us down, that the IDF has been curtailed in budget and training—and above all, that our national willpower and readiness to fight has been eroded—then they may feel that an opportunity has arisen to achieve political gains through military action. After all, this is their strategic goal: To alter the situation through military maneuvers in order to advance political processes from which they can profit.

And another point: The strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States, which has greatly strengthened in recent years, constitutes a major deterrent factor against starting a war with Israel. I assume that our way of coping with the intifadah (including the humanitarian aspects) will have an effect on the stability of this strategic cooperation as a deterrent against war.

In other words, the temptation to start a war could arise only when the situation within Israel—and in Israel's relations with the United States—has deteriorated so badly that the Arabs perceive Israel to be weak, and consider themselves as holding a military option. But it goes without saying that the IDF is alert and ready for any surprises.

[Gilbo'a] Is the IDF's current doctrine offensive or defensive in nature, and why?

[Shomron] The departure point is the lack of symmetry between Israel and the Arabs—in the territories, in strategic depth, in population, in economic resources, in political influence, and in regular armies as opposed to reserve forces. All these components comprise the bottom line of this asymmetry: staying power. The Arab countries, in whatever coalition, have staying power. They can fight a long war. We have no staying power.

[Gilbo'a] Is a preemptive counteroffensive part of the strategic concept?

[Shomron] If we give up the initiative in advance and allow all enemy divisions, including the Iraqis, to concentrate forces against us, we will have to deploy and use up our entire force in defense—and the resulting situation will be bad for us. The IDF is preparing itself for a preemptive counterstrike. Its aim is to disrupt the enemy's attack while it is still under way, to move onto the offensive much more quickly, and to gain superiority in the air. Thus, in my opinion, we will be able to shorten the war and decide the situation militarily more rapidly and with far fewer casualties. All this is dependent on the political echelon's approval, of course. [passage omitted]

Those who at war's end think that not firing the first shot will be to their credit are greatly mistaken.

[Gilbo'a] It is claimed that there are heavy political constraints with regard to this stance, such as those involving the United States. What is your response to this?

[Shomron] The answer is that we will pay with many more casualties, with a longer war, and with a higher price. So, matters will have to be weighed accordingly.

[Gilbo'a] In contrast to the past, today an internal constraint has been added to the external ones. It is doubtful whether there is a national consensus with regard to a preemptive counteroffensive.

[Shomron] There should indeed be a consensus regarding a preemptive counteroffensive. I say preemptive counteroffensive rather than a preemptive strike. There are three degrees in the defensive battle terminology: preemptive counteroffensive, simultaneous counteroffensive, and a subsequent counteroffensive. The common denominator for all three is that you, the defender, are being attacked. The important point, then, is that there should be a consensus that we are being attacked.

There was a complete such consensus during the 6-day war, although it was we who fired the first shot. It was from a defensive position that we launched a typical counteroffensive. The people at that time knew what was happening and the government did not conceal anything. Nevertheless, on the eve of the Yom Kippur War the people did not know what was taking place and what was concentrated against us. Had they known, I assume that then too it would have been possible to reach a consensus on our being attacked before the Arab offensive started.

In other words, national consensus depends on the extent the political echelon knows what is taking place and is successful in explaining the situation to the public. If it is impossible to convince the political level and the public, then it will indeed be impossible to carry out a preemptive counteroffensive, and the price will be heavy.

Meningococcemia Defined as 'Local Eruption'

TA1808163189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Nahariyya Mayor Jacky Sabag has expressed surprise at the fact that the Health Ministry did not adopt precautions, nor issue a warning about the rare and complicated form of meningitis which caused the death of two children in his town last night, while the U.S. State Department was aware of the danger and innoculated all of its Israeli-based embassy employees.

In a conversation with our correspondent Nati Zilberman, the Nahariyya mayor said that there is no reason for the outbreak of the disease in his town, and it could have happened anywhere. He noted that many vacationers canceled their visits in Nahariyya. Moods have calmed down, however, and life will hopefully return to normal.

A special Health Ministry team began operating at the Nahariyya hospital this morning. This team is counseling the hospital management on how to cope with the disease should additional patients contaminated with the disease arrive. Dr Sha'ul Shasha, the hospital director, said that the outbreak is now being viewed as a local eruption, rather than a plague. At the same time, he added that only after a few days will it be possible to determine that the danger is over. [passage omitted]

U.S. Citizen Claims Detained; Exit Prohibited

TA2108203189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Ramallah has forbidden U.S. citizen Ja'far Hamael, resident of Kafr Malik in the Ramallah District, to cross into the boundaries of Israel. The administration issued the man with a green identity card, which bars its bearer from entering Israel.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Hamael, a student from the United States, came to the Ramallah area several months ago. According to him, he has been detained twice for a total of 70 days, although no charges have been filed against him. He complains that he is unable to return to the United States because he is not allowed to travel to the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem.

A source at the Civil Administration has confirmed that Hamael was deprived of the right to enter Israel, and said that the authorities will allow him to return to the United States.

Magnetic ID Cards Considered for West Bank

TA2208111489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided in principle to employ new measures allowing for increased control and supervision of the entry of West Bank residents into Israel. Debates and even arguments are currently being held to decide on the best way of imposing such restrictions. One of the possibilities under consideration is the issue of magnetic ID cards, similar to those issued in the Gaza Strip.

Residents who in the past were convicted of security offenses, were held in administrative detention, or had committed a serious crime will not be granted entry

permits. Another, less technically complicated proposition is to expand the issue of green ID cards to residents who are forbidden entry to Israel for security reasons.

The final decision on the issue of restricting entry from the West Bank into Israel will be made only after initial conclusions are reached on the Gaza Strip operation. A defense source has reported that the real test of the entry permits system will in fact start next Sunday, as a result of the ban imposed by intifadah [uprising] activists in the Strip on the departure of laborers for work in Israel until that date. As of early this week, the Civil Administration had issued over 60,000 magnetic ID cards, which are used as entry permits for the residents of the Gaza Strip, and at least 1,000 residents have returned requesting a new permit after the first was confiscated by intifadah activists.

The defense establishment assumes that the struggle between the authorities and the intifadah leadership over the entry permits may go on for some time, but the authorities will eventually have the upper hand because of the economic situation in the territories. The leaders of the intifadah have no alternative jobs to offer the residents, and the need to make a living will eventually overcome all other considerations.

The introduction of any system of entry and transit permits from the West Bank to Israel is far more complex than it is in the Gaza Strip, mainly due to technical and geographic reasons.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would have to change its deployment to handle such an operation, and it would cost the defense establishment millions of shekels. Drastic steps in this direction in the West Bank would be far more significant than those taken in the Strip in terms of domestic politics (it would mean redrawing the Green Line), from the international aspect (Israel's image in the world), and from the logistical aspect. One of the issues being examined is the fate of the Arab residents of annexed East Jerusalem and the question of whether the residents of the territories would be limited in going there as well.

Youth Determined Not Killed by Security Forces

TA2108153989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The investigating officer who probed the circumstances leading to the death of Amjad al-Tawil from al-Birah has determined that the youth was not killed by gunfire from security forces. This was stated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. The officer's conclusions are based, among other factors, on the reconstruction of events in the Ramallah District on the day when the youth is believed to have been killed, and on the post mortem carried out at the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police are continuing to investigate the circumstances which led to the boy's death. Traces of a gunshot at close range—apparently from a handgun—were found on the body, but contrary to published reports, there were no traces of burns or blows.

In Tulkarm, stones were thrown at a bus transporting soldiers. One of the soldiers sustained a slight head injury and was treated on the spot. An IDF unit combed the area.

Near the East Jerusalem Rockefeller Museum, a stone was thrown at an Israeli bus early this evening, slightly wounding the driver. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the man received medical treatment on the spot.

2 Killed, Several Wounded in Territories 21 Aug

TA2108171689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The body of a young resident of the village of Tuqu' was brought to a Bethlehem hospital this afternoon. Official military sources said that the body was taken by the family. The youth's family contends that he was shot at from a vehicle driving in the vicinity of the village. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of the youth's death.

We have just learned of another fatality in the territories: a resident of the village of al-Ram north of Jerusalem. Military sources said that East Jerusalem al-Maqasid Hospital reported receiving the body of a 17-year-old youth from the village of al-Ram. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of his death.

Scattered incidents were reported in Judaea and Samaria throughout the day. In Tulkarm, four residents were wounded by IDF gunfire in the course of stoning incidents. An IDF soldier was slightly injured by a stone when a bus he was riding was pelted with stones. He received medical treatment on the spot.

In the village of Bayt Iba near Nabulus, two residents were wounded by IDF gunfire.

A general strike was staged today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Few workers left for Israel, transportation and commerce were paralyzed almost completely, and most of the West Bank schools remained closed.

The IDF spokesman has said that no casualties were recorded in the Gaza Strip. Gaza residents, however, reported that four residents were wounded in clashes with soldiers: two in Jabalyah and two in al-Shaykh Radwan in Gaza. Curfews in several Rafah neighborhoods remain in effect.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 21 August adds: "In the Gaza Strip, a Molotov cocktail was hurled today at an IDF patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. No one was hurt and there was no damage."]

Curfews Imposed After Deaths

TA2208043789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Last night a curfew was clamped on the village of al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, in the wake of riots which erupted following the death of two youngsters from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire. [In a related report by Joel Greenberg, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 August on page 1 adds that a curfew was also clamped on "neighbouring Dahiyat al-Barid."] Military sources say that an IDF patrol opened fire at a group of masked men who had been throwing stones and bottles at the soldiers near the village.

An 18-year-old youth was killed by shots near the village of Tuqu'. The circumstances of the shooting remain unclear, and the IDF is looking into the matter.

Riots also erupted last night in the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem, and the police dispersed youngsters who had been throwing stones at policemen armed with rubber bullets and tear gas.

3 Die in 22 Aug Incidents in Territories

TA2208110589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Three dead and at least three wounded today in the territories: An inhabitant of the al-Am'ari refugee camp who was killed in unclear circumstances, a 15-year-old girl who died today in a Ramallah hospital of wounds sustained earlier, and a female inhabitant of Khan Yunus who was shot dead this morning in Dayr al-Balah. Riots occurred this morning in various sites in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

Twenty-year-old 'Awwad Abu-Hadas from the Khan Yunus refugee camp was killed this morning by gunfire as soldiers dispersed a riot in the local market in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. Official military sources say IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were pelted with stones during the riot, and noted that the IDF is looking into the incident. Local inhabitants reported that at least three others were wounded in the same incident. Curfews remain in effect in several Rafah neighborhoods.

Riots and stone-throwing incidents erupted this morning in the al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah when it was learned that the body of a 17-year-old local youngster, Nasir Shahin Abu-Katarina, had been found on the outskirts of the camp. The circumstances of his death remain unclear. A police unit arriving on the scene found large bloodstains, but the body of the youngster was nowhere to be found. Local youths attacked the policemen with stones, and stopped them from collecting testimony about his death. The IDF and the police have been investigating the report since this morning.

The hospital in Ramallah reported this morning that a 15-year-old girl from the 'Askar refugee camp died today from wounds she sustained about a week ago when a riot was being dispersed.

A curfew remains in effect in the village of al-Ram following the riots that erupted last night after news spread of the death of two local villagers during a violent clash with IDF soldiers.

The turmoil which began in Ramallah when the body of Amjad al-Tawil was found continues. His relatives announced at noon that at their request Dr Derek Founder from Scotland will be performing another autopsy on the body, which was returned yesterday by the forensic institute to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. As may be recalled, Dr Founder was flown to Israel especially to give his opinion to the family about the circumstances of the boy's death.

Due to the riots and the rise in the level of violence in the territories, the Judaea and Samaria Regional Command decided not to reopen 10th and 11th grades tomorrow. It seems that the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria is reassessing the issue and that studies in high schools will resume only after peace is restored in the area.

West Bank High School Classes To Reopen 23 Aug

TA2108201889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has decided to allow the resumption of high school studies on Wednesday [23 August]. Our correspondent notes that the classes to be reopened are the 10th and 11th grades.

Reopening Canceled

TA2208062389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The 10th and 11th grades of high schools in Judaea and Samaria will not reopen tomorrow. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that yesterday's report about the reopening of classes—which was also broadcast on Arabic-language programs—was based on a source in the Civil Administration, following a debate in which Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration, announced that studies would indeed resume in those classes. This morning, however, official military sources made it clear that the reopening of those classes is not scheduled to take place tomorrow.

News Editor Detained by Administrative Order

TA2108194989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Hatim al-Qadir, head of AL-FAJR news department, was detained this evening in Jerusalem. The detention was based on a 6-month administrative order.

King Receives Pakistani Chief of Staff 21 Aug

JN2108181889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received this morning General Mirza Aslam Beg, Pakistani Army chief of staff, currently visiting Jordan.

The meeting was attended by [Jordanian] Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib; the Pakistani ambassador in Amman; and members of the accompanying delegation.

Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meets

JN2108184289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] A meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee was held at noon today at the Foreign Ministry. The Jordanian side was chaired by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian side by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member.

The meeting met specifically to discuss the situation of the Palestinian people under occupation and the appropriate means to alleviate the sufferings they are being subjected to.

Mr al-Qasim expressed Jordan's support for the PLO's efforts in the international arena to guarantee their legitimate and national rights through participating in the peace process. He praised the successes achieved by the Palestinian leadership since Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. He also reaffirmed Jordan's commitment toward providing all possible forms of support to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian brothers to enable them to remain steadfast over their territory and continue their struggle to attain their legitimate rights.

PETRA news agency learned that in implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's and His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's directives, the committee will continue to convene to discuss the appropriate action to increase coordination between the two sides to promote and support the stands and decisions taken by the PLO in its political campaign.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of awqaf and religious and Islamic affairs; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, general secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Usama Tahbub, acting director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by members of the Executive Committee 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, and 'Abdallah Hurani.

'Arafat Launches Palestine National Fund in Amman

JN2108130089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine has lauded the distinguished relations between Jordan and Palestine, underscoring the determination of the PLO to further develop and sustain them.

Launching the Palestine National Fund's offices in Amman, the president of the state of Palestine said he is deeply thankful to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for their approval that the Fund be based here. This is a translation of strategic Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the backing extended by Jordan led by His Majesty King Husayn to the Palestinian people. 'Arafat added: Basing the fund in Amman should help ease the burden on the kinfolk in the occupied land.

Meanwhile, at the same opening ceremony, the fund's director Jawid al-Ghusayn also thanked His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for meeting the PLO request that the fund offices be in Amman. This will serve to reinforce economic cooperation between Jordan and Palestine. The PLO, added Al-Ghusayn, is anxious to see Jordan's national economy in good shape, since a strong Jordanian economy and dinar will be a bulwark for our kinfolk in occupied Palestine, where the Jordanian dinar is the only medium of everyday transactions. The fund's budget for the past year, noted Al-Ghusayn, was $274 million—the aggregate of contributions by sisterly Arab states and individual Palestinians.

Finance Ministry Source Discusses IMF Loans

JN2008162189 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The International Monetary Fund, the IMF, has approved a loan to Jordan totaling $28.5 million. A Finance Ministry source in Amman said the loan, endorsed on Friday, was to boost Jordan's balance of payments in line with the economic adaptation program agreed between the government and the IMF.

In addition to the loan, the IMF last month agreed to grant Jordan a loan of 60 million special drawing units, 16.6 million of which had been drawn and used.

The total loans agreed between the government and the IMF amount to $103.5 million, 49,25,000 million of which had so far been drawn.

Ibn-Shakir Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Issues

JN1808195489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir on the weekly "Topical Affairs" program by moderator Muhammad Amin, director of Jordan Television, and correspondents Mahmud al-Sharif, former editor in chief of the newspaper AL-DUSTUR, and Hashim Khuraysat, head of the Journalists Association, in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Amin] Gentlemen, during this episode, we will try to discuss the most prominent issues on which light is being shed daily on the local, Arab, and the international levels. I give the first question to Mahmud al-Sharif.

[Al-Sharif] Mr Prime Minister, this government has assumed power while the country is experiencing a stifling economic and financial crisis. Would Your Excellency speak to us about the measures that have so far been taken, their effects on alleviating this crisis, and the measures that the government plans to take to march ahead on the road of financial and economic reform to end this crisis and all its effects?

[Ibn-Shakir] Yes, the government was formed under circumstances that you and the citizens recall because they were difficult. Jordan has never experienced such difficult financial and economic circumstances throughout the history of the Kingdom since the establishment of the emirate [Transjordan]. Top priority was given to the correction of the economic and financial course and to the restoration of stability to the dinar price. I believe that the effects of these measures have begun to bear fruit.

The plan we have set is basically to reschedule foreign debts. Foreign debts comprise two parts. The first part is with states, and we have begun talks with the states that have loaned us funds, at what is called the Paris Club, to finance projects, development, armaments, and so on. We have met with these states. The finance minister led the Jordanian delegation. The delegation included the planning minister and the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ]. We have succeeded in reaching an agreement with these states to reschedule our debts with them. The second part is commercial debts. A meeting will be held between us and the commercial banks at what is called the London Club.

The other way of tackling our financial problems lies in building foreign currency reserves at the CBJ. When this government assumed its responsibilities in April this year, the CBJ reserves were limited. Now, I can say that our reserves exceed $400 million.

Some of the measures we will take—and here I would like to refer to the aid extended to us by the fraternal Arab states, headed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the brothers in the Gulf states. [sentence incomplete as heard] Kuwait will invite the governors of the central banks in the Gulf states and the CBJ governor to agree on a deposit these states will deposit in the CBJ to help build reserves and restore stability to the dinar price. As I have said, the effects of this have begun to appear.

The issue to which I would like to draw attention is that the Arab brothers' aid is valuable and we highly appreciate it. However, I believe that we must do something for ourselves in our country. The important thing is to learn how to live within the limits of our intrinsic resources. The foreign aid will not continue forever. Although we express appreciation, love, and gratitude to our Arab brothers, still we must build our resources in our country to be able to live within the limits of our national income. From this premise, we should control government expenditures and reduce the budget deficit. We are now working to reduce the deficit gradually, beginning with this year. During the next year, we will work to reduce the deficit in the 1990 budget until we are able to cover the deficit, God willing, within a number of years. I cannot specify now how many years, but we must succeed in this work. The reduction of the deficit cannot be achieved by controlling government expenditures, but every citizen in our country should exert efforts to build our country's economy.

The other issue is to encourage exports. I was very pleased with the reports I received from my brothers, the ministers. For example, our vegetable and fruit exports during the first half of this year increased approximately 50 percent compared with last year. The government and the private sector should work to continue, increase, and strengthen this. We must invade the market and be, to some extent, aggressive in our dealing with other states regarding competition and promoting our goods, whether on the agricultural or the economic levels.

[Khuraysat] Mr Prime Minister, one of the most prominent results of the financial crisis is the sharp rise in the cost of commodities in the Kingdom. What are the measures that the government has taken or will take to limit the effect of this rise on the citizens?

[Ibn-Shakir] In fact, we have implemented part of the planned measures and we will implement the others later. Among these measures are:

1. Providing foodstuffs at reasonable rates and monitoring their prices.
2. Striking harshly at all those who attempt to exploit the circumstances through which our country and people are passing in order to deter hoarders and those who exploit these circumstances. We will work to subsidize basic commodities and ensure their availability.

[Khuraysat] Concerning basic commodities, the government's control is very clear. However, the other many commodities that the citizens need are very costly.

[Ibn-Shakir] That is true. However, we will watch these things. We are not against shopkeepers making legal profits, but we will prevent any person from doubling prices to harm the people. Moreover, we will establish a parallel market under government supervision. If we find that some merchants try to exploit the circumstances and raise the price of certain commodities in an unreasonable manner, we will make them available in parallel markets under government supervision.

[Amin] One of the most widespread problems in all countries is unemployment. This is creating a crisis in the world as well as in this region's states. Moreover, when there is an economic problem, the unemployment problem deepens.

[Ibn-Shakir] We have started our measures. We have opened labor offices in all the governorates. These offices will search for jobs and seek the unemployed and give them these jobs. In this regard, we have great numbers of foreign workers. The reason is that Jordanian citizens avoid working in certain areas in which there are great job opportunities. On this occasion, I would like to address my countrymen and say that it is not shameful to work in any job or profession. A Jordanian citizen should not be ashamed to work in agriculture or as a laborer at the al-'Aqabah port. The shameful thing is for a citizen to remain at home when there are job opportunties awaiting him while he shirks work amd complains of lack of jobs. This is one of the things I would like to mention here.

Moreover, we have succeeded in finding job opportunities for our people in some sisterly Arab states. For instance, we have a great number of doctors. We found that the sisterly Arab states need doctors. We reached agreements with them and sent them doctors. A few days ago, the Libyan health minister visited us. He told me that there are many Jordanian doctors working in Libya. He told me that there are many doctors from Arab and foreign countries. He assured me—and I think it was not only a compliment on his part—that one of the groups that mixed and worked with the Libyan people in a distinguished manner were the Jordanians. In some Arab states, such as Yemen, we have Jordanian teachers and doctors.

Another point I think is important is for us to seek means to train and qualify our sons for the jobs available here—for instance, vocational training. In my opinion, it is not enough for a person to attend university classes and obtain a university degree that does not qualify him to work in a certain technical field. Therefore, ambitious young men who want to find jobs should train themselves for the requirements of the current phase and of the future. We should ask our sons to work in this direction.

[Amin] Does this mean that the government is preparing and expanding the vocational schools to absorb the university students and those at a lower level?

[Ibn-Shakir] This is right.

[Amin] Are there other projects to absorb the unemployed?

[Ibn-Shakir] We are going to start projects to create job opportunities. I cannot define them specifically, but there are government projects. For instance, there will be road projects and such things which will help find job opportunities for our sons.

[Al-Sharif] Mr Prime Minister, his majesty the king and later Your Excellency paid visits to a number of sisterly Arab states, which had positive results on the country's economic and financial situation. I wonder whether there are other aspects for these contacts. Could you shed some light on the nature of these contacts and the aims they have realized?

[Ibn-Shakir] In my view, there have been two important points. The first point is the strong support our Arab brothers gave us and their zeal to aid us in these difficult circumstances, particularly Saudi Arabia and our brothers in the Gulf states. Indeed, Saudi Arabia's stand was very distinguished. We feel very grateful to Saudi Arabia. What impressed me was the status his majesty and Jordan enjoy in these sisterly countries. Their zeal to come to our assistance calls for pride in our leadership and people.

On the international level, I can say with pride that the states that loaned us money, both in the Paris Club and during our bilateral talks with these states, appreciated his majesty and Jordan. Their stand was also reassuring, making me feel that his majesty's ties with both the Arab and friendly states made us progress. I believe that this will shorten the period of our people's suffering from this difficult crisis.

[Khuraysat] Mr Prime Minister: The king's letter of designation addressed to Your Excellency contained clear orientations on the freedom of expression and journalism. We would like to hear from Your Excellency a clarification on the government's policy in this regard. The more sensitive issue pertaining to journalism, specifically, concerns a question posed among journalistic quarters of whether the government will maintain its full ownership of the press or whether the government intends to embark on a different policy. We would like to hear the answer of the prime minister to this question.

[Ibn-Shakir] Brother Hashim, the letter of designation is clear. His majesty the king ordered the government to open channels for communication and dialogue with the sons of our country. This is what we have been attempting to carry out since we assumed our executive tasks. I believe that we have prepared a climate, or begun to prepare a climate, that will be based on the direction to be taken. We have begun to prepare a climate for dialogue between us and journalism. We removed all the restrictions or bans imposed on your colleagues in the

practice of their journalistic profession. We believe in freedom, provided that this freedom is a responsible one that takes into account and focuses on the country's interests, stability, and security. The other issue is that we have faith in criticism, provided that this criticism is a constructive one designed to serve the country's interests and the people's unity. One voicing such criticism must always remember that we have enemies lying in wait for us and that we should not allow them to take advantage of any loopholes.

Regarding your second question, I and the government are attempting to propose or offer our newspapers and many institutions, not specifically journalism and newspapers. [sentence as heard]. This government intends to ask the private sector of the country to participate in the ownership of these institutions, be they journalistic, hotel, touristic, or other institutions. I do not see any justifications for seeing the government own everything. I believe that the private sector must take part in building this country and also in expressing the opinions of the citizen and that this must not remain a monopoly of the government.

[Amin] Mr Prime Minister: A long time ago, his majesty the king proposed two main issues within the framework of public life to effect a new turn and bring about a change in the country with the aim of creating a better situation. The first issue concerns elections; the other pertains to the national charter. Preparations for elections have been made, and the government has recently fixed a date for holding these elections. As for the national charter, what is Your Excellency's conception of the national charter?

[Ibn-Shakir] Let me answer the question pertaining to elections, even if I am too brief on this.

[Amin] Yes sir, please do.

[Ibn-Shakir] His majesty the king made a statement, I guess in February or March of this year, saying: We will work to hold free parliamentary elections in our country before the end of this year. In the letter of designation addressed to the government, his majesty the king clearly mentioned this point. Thus, the government has taken all the necessary measures, as you said, brother Muhammad. The election date has been fixed. And now, things have become 100 percent clear.

As for the charter, the national charter is the offspring of the ideas of his majesty the king. He is the one who launched the initiative in this regard. The charter will be based on the Jordanian Constitution. His majesty the king will form a committee comprising the various political orientations in our country to be tasked with drawing up this charter, which will be a charter to be complied with by all political activities in our country. This charter will organize the political life and practices in our country. Regarding the time for launching this, I believe that his majesty the king is currently considering this issue and that he will make a decision on this issue within the coming 2 or 3 months, God willing.

[Al-Sharif] Mr Prime Minister: I would like to seek your permission to move the discussion to an issue that preoccupies the minds of many parents of our students in this country, that actually preoccupies all citizens. I am referring to university education, higher education. The government has recently allowed the granting of licenses to establish private sector universities. There are differing opinions on the issue, despite the fact that the prevailing opinion of the overwhelming majority welcomes this idea. May I ask Your Excellency about the motives that prompted the government to accept the idea of launching private sector universities? Is there a future conception in our country of a higher education policy; that is, a clear-cut and firm policy?

[Ibn-Shakir] The main reason for this is actually the large numbers of our sons and daughters in Jordan who aspire to receive university education. Besides, our universities have a limited capacity to accept students, and the number of students who can be accepted by these universities is far fewer than that of those who seek to get a university education. We also found that large numbers of these students go abroad, which causes to the students and to their families because of the financial constraints entailed in sending these male and female youths abroad. Hence, we found it logical to alleviate these burdens on these youths and their families by allowing the establishment of private sector universities that would absorb the largest possible number of these youths. Besides, we instructed our universities to expand the number of students to be accepted this year. I believe that the number of students to be accepted this year will be much greater than that of those accepted last year.

[Khuraysat] Allow me, Your Excellency Prime Minister, to move on to another subject, which is the political field. Your Excellency, how do you evaluate the efforts exerted to find a solution to the Palestine question at this stage, especially in light of the PLO's new political course?

[Ibn-Shakir] In this field, we must mention three important points. The first point: The most recent or last stage of the developments in the Palestine question is the topic of the heroic intifadah [uprising] our people started in occupied Palestine. In this intifadah, the Palestinian Arab people confronted Israeli belligerence, violence, and armed forces, while they stood defenseless with nothing more than stones or petrol bombs. This intifadah activated the Palestine question and opened eyes that were trying to blind themselves to what was happening in the West Bank and occupied Arab territories. It made the Palestine question come to the forefront of every newscast everywhere in the world.

The second point, where we also must pause, is his majesty's decision to disengage ties. This decision placed the PLO in the leading position on the reality ground concerning dealing with the world and the Palestine question.

The third point is the Palestine National Council's decision in Algiers. In my opinion, the Palestinian stand now is extremely positive and has placed the ball in the U.S.-Israeli court. Israel must confront this stand with a positive stand; otherwise, the sufferings of this region of the world will be prolonged.

The superpowers must exert some form of pressure on Israel to make it see that it is in its interest, regardless of any other, to respond to the desires of the Arab world, especially the Palestinian people's, in realizing just peace in Palestine.

[Amin] Sir, as we are discussing Middle East issues, and we have discussed the basic cause of the Middle East, may I ask a question about Lebanon, which will be the last question? Concerning Lebanon, prior to the cease-fire called for by the Security Council last Wednesday evening [16 August], there was a rapid deterioration in the situation in Lebanon, prophesying many developments and complications at the Lebanese and Arab world levels. In Your Excellency's evaluation and belief, what grounds could rescue Lebanon for the Lebanese?

[Ibn-Shakir] Let us first explain our stand here in Jordan. We believe in, and our stand is with, an independent Lebanon controlled completely by a national government. We believe that the Lebanese should put aside personal, selfish, party, or sectarian interests and look at their problem from the Lebanese point of view. They should start dialogue with one another, discuss their issues, agree on the things that unite the Lebanese, and not concentrate on what divides them. We support any Arab or international effort to resolve this cause. The Lebanese people have gone through unlimited sufferings during the past 15 years. The victims dying every day are women and children. The fighters rarely offer any sacrifice. What is happening is that a country is being destroyed above the heads of innocent citizens, who have nothing to do with this party or with sectarian rivalry. We believe that the Lebanese must first of all set aside their grudges and party vituperations and view this problem first and foremost as Lebanese.

We support the Arab tripartite committee and the Arab effort. We support any international effort that might realize peace and stability for Lebanon and return Lebanon to the Arab ranks as a strong and united country with full control over its territories.

[Amin] At the end of this meeting, we are very pleased to thank His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir. God willing, there will be more meetings on the "Topical Affairs" program. Thank you, sir.

We also thank Mahmud al-Sharif and Hashim Khuraysat for participating in this dialogue. We thank you, brother listeners. We hope that we have presented to you in this meeting the most prominent things dealing with our local issues, as well as Arab issues. We hope to meet you again in a coming episode of the "Topical Affairs" program.

Hizballah Cited on Arrival of French Carrier

LD2108174489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Revolutionary Hizballah of Lebanon, in a statement issued today, described the arrival of the aircraft carrier from France's military [as heard] fleet in the coastal waters of Lebanon as the use of force on the part of global arrogance and Zionism against the people of Lebanon, and emphasized: Islamic and national forces, possessing power and adequate facilities to confront and oppose these kinds of fleet, do not fear them at all. In this statement it was (?stressed) that the only way to solve Lebanon's crisis is to destroy Maronite politics, and Maronite politics should pay attention to this reality more than before. The interference of the United States, France, and the Zionist regime will not interfere with its sealed destiny. Hizballah, in today's statement also condemned the equipping and arming of the Maronite regime by Baghdad's regime.

French 'Provocations' Condemned

LD2108205889 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh Shamsuddin, vice speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Lebanese Shiite has condemned the provocations of the French naval forces in the coastal waters of Lebanon as a threat against the oppressed people and as an attempt to interfere with Lebanon's 1943 constitutional law. Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shamsuddin today warned France not to launch military operations in Lebanon, and stressed that France's statesmen have committed a big blunder.

Severely criticizing the latest position of Pope John Paul vis-a-vis Lebanon, he stressed that the Lebanese Muslims have never nurtured evil thoughts against the Christians.

Birri Threatens To Shell Ships

NC2208152389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has threatened to shell any ship which tries to approach the Lebanese coast. In a statement he made in Tyre, he said that the state which claims to be carrying flour in gun muzzles bears the responsibility for what can happen.

Minister Birri affirmed that the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon want to maintain good relations with France and do not wish to confront it. But, he added, we are committed to defending the dignity of our country.

France To Deploy Nuclear Sub

LD2108174789 Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Hannibal [August] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—France has decided to despatch an offensive nuclear submarine off the Lebanon [as received] to boost the French units sent there earlier.

France TV Network 1 has said that this submarine is carrying on board missiles. It is scheduled that 40 military aircraft and other helicopters will be joining the aircraft-carrier Foch.

The French TV station said that the operation of the dispatch by France to its military fleet was prepared jointly with the UN [as received] Navy.

French Envoy Conveys Response to Al-Huss

NC2108212389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Excerpt] French Ambassador in Lebanon Rene Ala reaffirmed today that France does not believe in a military solution in Lebanon and does not believe in a military victory of one party over the other. He noted that France does not intend to participate in any military operations. He said that he conveyed to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss the French Government's response to his inquiries. The response is that the French aid, which explains the arrival of some French naval units in the eastern Mediterranean, is destined for all Lebanese people and the French community living in Lebanon.

He noted that the movement of the naval units is aimed at providing technical means in case something extraordinary happens; namely, the violation of the cease-fire and the resumption of artillery shelling. He added that we do not want this to happen. He explained that France is a Mediterranean country and has naval capabilities in this sea.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received Ambassador Ala at noon today and held a meeting with him lasting a full hour. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Calls 'Awn's Proposal 'Minefield'

NC2208105089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today described 'Awn's proposal for opening a dialogue regarding reforms as a minefield, saying that a response to this proposal is unlikely.

In an interview with London radio, Al-Huss said that the Arab League's peace plan is an integrated and indivisible plan and that the Arabs are the only party which can exert pressure for its implementation.

U.S. Reportedly Asks Libyan Help on Hostages

NC2008123389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] In connection with the hostage issue, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports that the United States has asked Libya for any assistance or information it can offer concerning the Western hostages in Lebanon.

The paper cites well-informed sources in Washington and Tripoli as saying that the request was relayed to Libyan delegate to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki. Al-Turayki, the paper adds, held several secret meetings with U.S. officials over the past few weeks to discuss ways to improve bilateral ties as well as remove the economic embargo on Libya.

Further on Israeli Incursion Into al-Biqa'

NC2108161289 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Aug 21 (AFP)—Israeli forces clashed with Shiite fundamentalist guerrillas Monday outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, correspondents said.

Two Israeli tanks and four armored personnel carriers pushed four kilometers (2.5 miles) out of the border zone toward Libbaya village, in the southern al-Biqa' valley, where the pro-Iranian Hizballah has a strong presence.

Several hours later, in mid-afternoon, clashes were still under way in the sector. There were no immediate reports of casualties, but a Hizballah fighter told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he had scored a direct hit on an Israeli tank.

Artillery units located inside the "security zone" meanwhile shelled several towns and villages in the sector, including 'Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Zillaya, Qilya, Suhmor, Yuhmor and al-Qir'awn, correspondents said.

The zone, running 10 to 20 kilometers (six to 12 miles) into Lebanon along Israel's northern border from the Mediterranean to Mount Hermon, is patrolled by the Israeli army and its auxiliary militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Israeli forces staged a similar operation in the region July 10, investing two villages eight kilometers (five miles) outside the buffer zone for several hours to "search for people suspected of cooperating with anti-Israeli terrorists."

Monday's incursion came the day after a Hizballah attack at Beit Yahun, site of a checkpoint marking the northern edge of the security zone, which the Israeli army said wounded two Lebanese civilians and an SLA militiaman.

Israel meanwhile beefed up its forces in the central sector of the "security zone" in possible preparation for a sweep northwards, regional security sources said Monday.

A force of 200 soldiers that arrived from northern Israel in a convoy of 65 vehicles deployed near the villages of al-Tiri and Haddathah, the sources said.

The Irish contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which is posted in the sector, responded by sending 40 soldiers and seven tanks to reinforce its positions, they said.

Two neighboring villages, Rshaf and Tallusah, have been besieged by the SLA since a Hizballah suicide bomber wounded five Israeli soldiers and an SLA militiaman on August 9.

Clashes in Beirut, Israeli Overflights Noted

NC2208110689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes took place on the combat lines of the southern suburb, Sodeco, and Primo [in Beirut] between 1200 and 1300 today. Shells also landed on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Hazimiyah, and Jisr al-Basha. Skirmishes in which rockets were used also took place on the Suq al-Gharb lines. Meanwhile, Israeli military planes overflew the capital at 1310, causing sonic booms.

1 Killed in Shelling of Suburb

NC2108193489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The areas of Bi'r al-'Abd, Burj al-Barajinah, and al-Ruways in Beirut's southern suburb have been coming under artillery bombardment from the positions of the 'Awn militia for some time. Areas in the Suburb and al-Shuwayfat and some neighborhoods adjacent to the confrontation lines in the capital were the targets of shelling earlier this evening. According to a preliminary count, one person was killed by the shelling and several others were wounded.

2 Killed in Overnight Shelling

NC2208072589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Guarded calm prevails on the contact lines extending from the markets up to the mountain following clashes which continued until dawn today. Shells reached places far from the traditional lines. Violent clashes took place on the southern surburb lines extending from al-'Amrusiyah to al-Tayyunah interspersed with indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas which left two dead and 47 wounded. The shelling of the eastern areas left 14 wounded . [passage omitted]

Khaddam Lists Principles of Position on Lebanon

JN2108204889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Report on a speech by Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at a meeting of Ba'th Party secretaries, senior government officials, and trade union leaders and other figures "today"; place not given]

[Text] Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, opened the meetings today of the comrade secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches, the governors, heads of the popular organizations and trade unions, and the presidents of the universities. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam was present. The meeting was also attended by Comrade People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, the two deputy prime ministers for services and economic affairs; ministers; and the directors of the information institutions.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam delivered a comprehensive political speech in which he reviewed developments in the international arena; the various aspects of the Arab situation; the positions of the Arab sides on the current issues in the Arab arena; developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict; and the great importance of our people's steadfastness in Palestine, Golan, and southern Lebanon in the face of the aggressive Israeli practices. He also hailed our people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories and its positive effects on the pan-Arab struggle. He stressed Syria's support for the intifadah and its pan-Arab goals.

Then the vice president reviewed current efforts to draw some Palestinian and Arab sides into negotiations with the Zionist enemy on the basis of Shamir's plan in order to end the intifadah by containing it from the outside and to reach an agreement with the Israelis to liquidate the national aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people and close the file on the Palestine question.

The vice president also talked about the Lebanese situation, explaining in detail the facts about the situation; factors that have led to the current military escalation by the military clique in the easten area; and the role of the fascist regime in Iraq in supporting this clique in order to liquidate and strike at the nationalist forces and destroy the nationalist areas that have remained steadfast against the Israeli aggression and the aggression of its agents. He also cited the role of the Iraqi regime in Lebanon with the support of some Western nations—a role that is aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and replacing Israel with the Iraqi regime to support the gangs that deal with Israel and to give the Israelis an opportunity to destroy the intifadah and end the Palestine question. He said that some Western circles are asking the Iraqi regime to escalate the sedition in Lebanon in order to preoccupy Syria and limit its role against efforts to liquidate the Palestine question—efforts in which Palestinian and Arab sides are participating.

The vice president also reviewed developments following the extraordinary summit conference in Casablanca and the discussions held with the Arab tripartite committee representatives, in which Syria stressed its adherence to the Arab summit's resolutions and its readines to support the efforts of the committee to implement these resolutions. Syria also expressed its inability to pressure the Lebanese nationalist forces into accepting other resolutions and moves that conflict with the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Casablanca.

The vice president further stressed the following principles underlying Syrian's position on the Lebanese crisis:
1. Lebanon's unity is an issue that cannot be relinquished, and Syria will take every measure to guarantee this unity for pan-Arab considerations and out of its eagerness to preserve the unity of this fraternal country.
2. The solution to the Lebanese problem is the duty of the disputing Lebanese parties, and that national accord is a goal that should be achieved, because it is a safe way to end the crisis in Lebanon.
3. Syria has always supported and will continue to support all the nationalists in Lebanon regardless of their political, social, and geographic affiliations as well as those who believe in Lebanon's Arabism. It is also necessary to establish a democratic system under which the citizens become equal in rights and duties so that no citizen is distinguished from another citizen, except in what he offers the homeland. Syria will stand beside all the Lebanese, because it cannot distinguish between one brother and another brother.
4. Supporting the Lebanese national struggle to end the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon.

The vice president also mentioned the uproar in some Western circles and the moves of these circles and their negative results, including the complications of the crisis in Lebanon. He also confirmed that Syria will firmly support the nationalist forces, which are being exposed to pressure and blackmail.

At the end of his comprehensive political speach, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam answered questions posed by the audience.

Papers Comment on French Position on Lebanon

JN2208081089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The French Stand Is Approaching a Critical Point," AL-BA'TH says: Despite all the declarations and statements issued by the French Government over the past 2 days regarding the nonmilitary nature of moving its naval units toward the Lebanese coast, we cannot view this activity, the measures accompanying it, and its future possibilities in line with

France's diplomatic view, which sometimes involves itself in contradictions which make us doubt the entire French move toward the Lebanese issue. The French Government was perhaps the only one in the European Community and imperialist West that expressed reservations about the Casablanca summit resolutions approved by the Arab leaders as a framework for reaching a solution to save Lebanon from destruction, killing, and collapse. This indicates that since the beginning, France had a stand contradicting not only that of all the Arabs, but also of its European neighbors and the United States. The French stand has stemmed from incorrect grounds of sectarian considerations which harms the reputation of the French Republic, which is one of the free world's states. The paper says that the French stand is almost approaching the point of becoming an absolute supporter for 'Awn and his clique under a cover that can deceive nobody. Under this cover, the French currently call for safeguarding the endangered Christians in Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: What is required from the French Government before sending humanitarian aid aboard warships is to reconsider its partitioning view of Lebanon. Lebanon will remain united. All Lebanese citizens have one homeland which will remain free and sovereign.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: When the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces affirm their strong cohesion with Syria and the ability of this cohesion to continue to confront and foil the scheme of partition and advocation of Zionism, it comes from a solid basis and a Lebanese will embodied by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people through their struggle, sacrifices, and determination to create the Lebanon aspired to by its sons and necessitated by the national and pan-Arab interests. Undoubtedly, 'Awn and his clique know what the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces represent now and in the future. They also know what Syria means to Lebanon and the Lebanese when they are endangered.

Reaction to French in Lebanon, Tarasov's Visit

JN2108144889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] It is obvious that no one here believes the reasons and justifications France has put forth for sending French naval units to Lebanon. TISHRIN carried a caricature showing a French aircraft carrier with the phrase "humanitarian reasons" written on its guns and missiles. Damascus radio cited Lebanese and Arab nationalist and progressive circles as warning France against interfering in Lebanon's affairs. They believe that the objective of the mobilization of the French naval units in Lebanon is to put pressure on the nationalist forces and Syria. [passage omitted]

On another level, an Eastern European diplomatic source has stated that USSR Assistant Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov will arrive in Damascus this Wednesday [23 August] for consultation and coordination with the Syrian Government, and to highlight Moscow's support for its principal ally in the region. The source added that reports about coordination between Paris and Moscow are very much exaggerated, and that the Soviet Union forcefully supports Syria and will not abandon it. The source recalled the Soviet Union's role supporting Syria in the UN Security Council.

Al-Asad Replies to Italian Premier's Peace Plea

PM1808115689 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 17 Aug 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Asad in a Letter to Andreotti: 'Ready To Silence Cannons'"]

[Excerpt] Rome—Syria will work "to silence the cannons and to facilitate, as far as possible, the attainment of an inter-Lebanese agreement." This is stated by Syrian President al-Asad in a personal message sent to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The text of Al-Asad's letter was released by the Chigi Palace: The Italian prime minister's office note states that Al-Asad reaffirms "the well-known Syrian position that attributes the failure to reach an understanding among the various Lebanese groups to General 'Awn's stubbornness." But according to the Chigi Palace the Syrian president confirms his country's willingness to implement the "decisions of the Arab summit in Casablanca and to express its amenability."

A few days ago Prime Minister Andreotti sent the Syrian president a letter expressing "the Italian Government's anxiety about the Lebanese crisis and particularly about the fate of the population, who have too long been exposed to a very heavy burden of suffering" and urging Syria to "make a decisive contribution to the current peace efforts to silence the weapons, while at the same time citing the pope's anxiety in this regard." [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Frenchman's Activities Under Investigation

BK2108091489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 21 (AFP)—Captured French aid worker Henri-Xavier Lemire has recovered from a slight wound he received when government soldiers clashed with mujahidin rebels accompanying him and is now under investigation by security forces, a government spokesman said Monday [21 August].

Mr. Lemire, a physiotherapist with the humanitarian organisation Handicap International, was captured while fellow aid worker Vincent Gernigon, an artifical limb specialist, was killed in the clash in Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province August 14.

The spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr. Lemire had received "good treatment" and was now out of the hospital in Kabul where he had been filmed by Afghan Television Saturday. The film clip had showed the bearded Frenchman sitting on a bed in apparent good health. No injury was visible.

Journalists here were told Monday that it would not be possible to meet Mr. Lemire as authorities were investigating his activities. Such investigations in the past have usually taken several weeks.

"He is in good form. But (when I saw him) he was a little tired," a Foreign Ministry source who had visited the prisoner said.

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said Sunday that Mr. Lemire was travelling with a group of the rebel Jamiyat-e Eslami to Herat Province and that the group he was with were "engaged in armed activities against the state".

There are no French diplomats here, but French diplomats in Peshawar have said that Kabul has expressed regrets over the death of Mr. Gernigon and asked for clarifications on Mr. Lemire's activities inside Afghanistan.

Handicap International had said the two Frenchmen were accompanying a truckload of artificial limbs at the time of the battle between government forces and the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, an International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representative in Kabul said that the ICRC had asked for permission to see Mr. Lemire, but that they had received no reply by late Monday.

Najibullah on Anniversary Message From USSR

LD2008214489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 19, BAKHTAR—On behalf of the people of Afghanistan and on my own I express my cordial thanks for your friendly and warm congratulations on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of regaining independence of Afghanistan, says the gratefulness message of president Najibulah in reply to the congratulatory message of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and president of the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The message adds: The people of Afghanistan celebrate the 70th independence anniversary under the most sensitive and difficult conditions in the history of the country. Under present conditions while independence and national sovereignty of Afghanistan are endangered as a result of foreign interventions and armed aggression, the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan consider their historic duty to defend bravely the independence and national sovereignty, and meanwhile continue their all-sided efforts for a speedy ending of war, bloodshed as well as ensurance of national compromise and reconciliation in our historic land.

The message says further: We point out with satisfaction that in these efforts our freedom-loving people enjoy the valuable assistance and support of their international friends.

The message expresses deep gratitudes of the Afghan people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan for disinterested aids, solidarity and support of the state and people of the Soviet Union rendered to the Republic of Afghanistan.

The message states confidence that the friendly relations and good-neighbourliness between the two countries will be strengthen even further in the future in the interest of the people of both countries, peace and stability in the region as well as in the world.

At the end the message wishes prosperity and tranquillity for the Soviet people.

Jaruzelski, Zhivkov Congratulate Najibullah

LD2208092489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 21, BAKHTAR—On the occasion of 70th anniversary of the regaining independence of Afghanistan congratulatory messages addressed to Najibullah, president of Republic of Afghanistan [RA] have been received to Kabul today from Jambyn Batmonh, chairman of the Presidium of People's Great Hural of Mongolia, Wojciech Jaruzelski president of the Polish People's Republic, Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of Bulgarian Communist Party and president of

People's Republic of Bulgaria, and president [as received] of Hungarian People's Republic and first secretary of Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party.

While congratulating President Najibullah on the occasion, the messages stated that with realization of the policy of national reconciliation and setting up of a national unity government in Afghanistan based on wide national understanding of Afghans, necessary conditions will be provided for preservation a durable peace in Afghanistan.

The messages express the hope that the existing friendly relations among the governments of the RA and the said countries will be further expanded and strengthened in the interests of peoples of the abovementioned countries as well as peace and security in the region and in the world.

Likewise a congratulatory message has reached to Kabul today by the leadership of Pushtun Jirgah with its headquarters in India addressed to President Najibullah on the said ground. The message stressed that we assure you that the India Pushtun Jirgah will spare no efforts in immediate stopping of war and fratricide as well as attaining of national accord and insurance of peace in the RA.

Najibullah Congratulates Chissano on Reelection

LD1808075789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 17, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA CC and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a message to Maputo congratulating Joaquim Alberto Chissano, chairman of Frelimo party and president of the Republic of Mozambique, on his re-election as chairman of the Frelimo party.

It is pointed out in the message that the PAPA is fully confident that the Mozambique people are able to score further successes in their struggles against foreign interferences and domestic counter-revolution. The message wishes hope for the further consolidation of existing friendship and brotherhood between the parties and governments of both countries.

Mujahidin 'Source' Cited on Arms Supply Crisis

PM1808091089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 89 p 5

[Jamal Khashuqji and Ahmad Zaydan report: "Information Confirms Arms Not Delivered to Mujahidin"]

[Excerpts] London, Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A source close to the Afghan mujahidin in charge of arms distribution operations in Afghanistan has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that hitherto none of the expected arms consignments which the mujahidin need for their next military campaign against the Kabul regime have been received. The source, who asked to remain anonymous, added that the mujahidin have received assurances from the Pakistanis and Americans on the resumption of arms supplies and that the next consignments will contain new types to suit the nature of the future fighting planned by the mujahidin, who have gone on the offensive and are besieging major cities.

The source also confirmed that arms supplies have ceased in recent months since the Soviets competed their withdrawal. However, the impact of this was not felt in the battlefield until recently because of the mujahidin's recourse to their stockpile of heavy weapons. The situation has also had repercussions on the unofficial arms market in the tribal areas of Pakistan, where various kinds of arms and heavy shells are available. The huge spoils seized by the mujahidin early in the summer provided a major source of arms on those markets. [passage omitted]

The source, who is close to the mujahidin, said the delivery of the expected arms is essential now in order to start the military operations planned for September and October. He added that "there is no sign at present that the arms will be delivered soon—or that they have already been delivered—to Pakistan. He added that the failure to deliver the arms could prevent a major change in the Afghan scene this summer. However, he went on to say that "it is difficult to predict the Afghan people's reaction. They have large quantities of light weapons, but their stock of heavy weapons is one of the secrets which cannot be revealed."

Meanwhile, The Islamic Party led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar launched a strong attack on the the United States, accusing it of working to deny the mujahidin victory and seeking to reach a solution to the problem with the Soviet Union, a solution that does not include them. Hekmatyar's attack came in a statement distributed by the party in Peshawar the day before yesterday. The statement denies Hekmatyar could have submitted a request to visit the United States in order for it to be rejected by U.S. officials. THE WASHINGTON POST mentioned that the U.S. State Department rejected a request from Hekmatyar to make an official visit to the United States this summer. [passage omitted]

The statement said that "Brother Hekmatyar was on the battlefront when he made the decision to allow the delegation to travel, but he had no plans to go himself." It added: "Brother Hekmatyar avoided visiting the United States because of his opposition to U.S. policies. He also refused to meet with former U.S. President Ronald Reagan when he visited the United States 2 years ago to attend the UN session so that Washington would not involve Afghanistan its policy and its conflict with the Soviets."

It is known that relations between Hekmatyar and the United States have not been good since the Afghan jihad was launched. And U.S. media services often accuse Hekmatyar of fanaticism, extremism, and hostility to the West. [passage omitted]

Pakistani sources say that the United States has actually resumed arms supplies, but only to the moderate parties. As for the "fundamentalist" parties, they have received no arms. Shaykh Sayyaf [mujahidin prime minister] recently joined those complaining about the shortage of arms and ammunition.

Furthermore, some Islamic Party leaders have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Hekmatyar's announcement of his support for a military coup in Kabul is attributable to the shortage of arms and to the fact that he believes the mujahidin cannot continue like this and must find an alternative; otherwise, desperation will enter the hearts of the both the people and the mujahidin.

Mujadihin Factions Reportedly Settle Differences
PM2108103589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 89 pp 1-2

[Jamal Khashuqji and Ahmad Zaydan report: "Rabbani And Hekmatyar Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Takhar Incident Ended and We Are Working To Escalate Jihad in North Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] London/Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The crisis between the biggest Afghan mujahidin parties—the Islamic Party led by Engineer Golbuddin Hekmatyar and the Islamic Society led by Burhanuddin Rabbani—has ended with reconciliation and agreement to send a judicial committee to the north to investigate the incident which occurred between the two sides last month.

Rabbani and Hekmatyar affirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the incident is now all but ended, and they decided to accept the ruling of the religious court which will shortly head north to investigate the incident and its causes.

In their statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT they also pointed out that the incident did not represent the two parties' position but was merely an isolated local dispute. They expressed their hope that the future will witness greater coordination and cooperation between the two parties in order to escalate the jihad in the northern region and throughout Afghanistan.

The two Afghan leaders reached the agreement following mediation by a number of Afghan and Muslim 'ulema, some of whom came from outside Peshawar to resolve the crisis. They included Shaykh Muhammad Mahmud al-Sawwaf from Iraq, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani from Yemen, Rachid Ghannouchi from Tunisia, as well as Dr 'Abdallah 'Azzam from Palestine, who also resides in Peshawar. [passage omitted].

In a letter addressed to their mujahidin in Takhar—a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained—Rabbani and Hekmatyar ordered them not to "move against one another" or "do anything that would directly or indirectly cause a confrontation or foment sedition." The message says that at this time, while the jihad is about to achieve its objectives, "we must not waste this precious opportunity through trivial differences and internal disputes, so that our sacrifices will not go the way of the wind, especially at this stage in which the enemies of Islam have united to destroy our hopes." [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar and Rabbani expressed their hope that the religious court will lead to the establishment of security and the return of reconciliation among the mujahidin in the region.

The message indicated that the agreement was reached in response to a request from the mujahidin government. Apart from Rabbani and Hekmatyar, the agreement was also signed by 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, head of the [mujahidin] government, and Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, [mujahidin] head of the state.

Mujahidin Leaders Agree on Takhar Committee
LD2008223689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 20 AUG 89

[Text] A source connected with the interim government of the Afghan mujahidin said to an IRNA correspondent: The names of the members of the committee to examine the Takhar episode—in which a number of commanders of the Jamiyat-e Eslami were martyred at the hands of Golbuddin Hekmatyar's forces—have been declared. Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, and Golbuddin Hekmatyar have agreed to the composition of this committee.

Shelling Threat Closes Kabul Schools 2 More Weeks
BK2208011789 Hong Kong AFP in English 2119 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 21 (AFP)—The government announced here Monday that all schools and kindergartens in the Afghan capital would be closed for another two weeks to avoid further casualties from mujahidin rocket attacks.

Foreign Office Spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said the decision to extend the normal summer vacation from two to six weeks was taken because six schools and two kindergartens had been hit by rebel rockets in the past two months.

Civilian casualties in the intensified rocketting of the city, which began in early July, have run into hundreds, with hundreds of others wounded.

Mr. Amani also said that eight packages of plastic explosives had been found Monday in a Kabul school before they could explode. He declined to give further details because he said parents would be too worried to send their children back to school.

Earlier Monday, journalists were shown two three-meter-long rockets captured by Afghan Armed Forces some 57 kilometres (36 miles) southeast of Kabul, which the military said were a new "cluster-bomb" type weapon used for the first time on Kabul last Tuesday, killing nine people and injuring many. The bombs explode in mid-air and scatter small mines which residents of the area said exploded when touched sending out scores of small flechettes.

The markings on the rockets (E-320-MII), were in English, with instruction tabs in Arabic and English.

A top Afghan general, 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, told foreign journalists Monday that their use on Kabul last Tuesday appeared to have been "the first time in Afghanistan." He said military technicians were still studying the rockets, but that he understood they could be made both in the United States and Britain.

Gen. 'Ulumi called those who supplied the mujahidin with the rockets "irresponsible" and added that the United States had shown its animosity not only towards Afghanistan but the whole of humanity. He said the rockets had a killing radius of some 40 metres (132 feet).

Gen. 'Ulumi also said that two-thirds of Afghanistan were virtually free of fighting, and that the remaining "hot" zones were those near the Pakistan border, from where the mujahidin still hoped to strike against a major city.

He also denied that the airport in the Iranian-border city of Herat had been closed by fighting in recent weeks and offered to organise a trip for foreign journalists to prove the allegations wrong.

40 Mujahidin Killed as Planes Bomb Tarin Kowt

BK2008145089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 20 (AFP)—Heavy bombing by Afghan Government planes in central province of Oruzgan last week killed 40 mujahidin and wounded 20, resistance sources said here Sunday [20 August].

The Moslem guerrillas launched an operation against the provincial capital Tarin Kowt on August 12 and destroyed two security posts during the attack, the sources said, adding that casualties among Afghan Government troops were not known. Kabul's Air Force retaliated with heavy raids around the city, the mujahidin sources said.

Forty mujahidin were killed and 20 injured in the four days of bombing, the sources said, adding that casualties among the civilian population in surrounding areas were "very high."

In western Herat Province, the mujahidin reportedly ambushed a convoy of Afghan troops Tuesday on the highway linking Herat city to the Eslam Qal'eh district near the border with Iran. The rebels destroyed a tank and two trucks, killing nine and wounding 17, the sources said.

Mujahidin Destroy Posts, Block Jalabad Highway

BK2208084689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce clashes are reported to have taken place between the Afghan mujahidin and the Kabul regime troops in Faryab Province. According to reports, during an attack on (Mahliban) post, 35 Kabul troops joined the mujahidin along with their weapons. Two mujahidin were injured in the fighting. A post of (Mohammad 'Ali Sarfrosh) was also destroyed by mujahidin. A convoy of the Najib regime troops was attacked by the mujahidin in (Ghazita) area, in which two tanks were destroyed and one tank was captured by the mujahidin.

In Dahaneh-ye Ghowri area of Baghlan Province, the mujahidin have destroyed a military post. They destroyed a number of security posts in (?Ghazni) Province.

Meanwhile, a commander of mujahidin says mujahidin have once again blocked Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The road is reported to have been in the control of the mujahidin for the last 10 days.

Missiles Kill 4 During Anniversary Festivities

LD1908163489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpts] At a time when our Muslim people were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the restoration of national independence, the professional murderers in accordance with the plans by the state terrorists of the United States and Pakistan fired 15 surface-to-surface missiles into the residential areas of Kabul city. [passage omitted] As a result, four of our countrymen, including women and children, were martyred and 17 were injured.

The injured were transfered immediately to hospitals and given serious treatment and observation. These missiles also inflicted financial damage to our compatriots when they landed in residential areas.

24 'Extremists' Killed in Retaliatory Attack

LD2008214389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 19, BAKHTAR—Three armed forces personnel were injured today as a result of firing heavy weapons by extremists supported by Corps-11 of Pakistan on residential areas and security posts outside Jalalabad city, administrative centre of Nangarhar Province, bordering Pakistan, reported a BAKHTAR military correspondent quoted an authoritative source of government forces in Nangarhar.

As a result of retaliatory attack of Nangarhar garrison 24 extremists were killed, 28 others seriously injured, and a large amount of enemy weapons were destroyed.

According to another report extremists fired rockets on Paktia, Herat and Qandahar Provinces which resulted in killing nine persons and injuring eight others, the Armed Forces concentrated there retaliated, killed 20 extremists and wounded 12 others. Two cars of enemies carrying weapons were also destroyed.

Based on another report, during severe clashes took place between Golbuddin and his rival criminal groups today in Pushton, Zargun and Aobe Districts of Herat Province 16 extremists from both sides were killed and a large number injured. [sentence as received]

Bangladesh

100 Injured in Clashes With Police in Dhaka

BK1908124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 100 people were injured and many vehicles damaged during clashes between police and transport workers in Dhaka as the nationwide indefinite strike called by the Road Transport Union began today. Police fire tear-gas shells to disperse the workers who were blocking the traffic.

The strike has virtually paralyzed the road communication network throughout the country. The strike call has been given to press the government to accept the demands of the union, which include the announcement of a transport policy, job security, and end of harassment by traffic police.

Transport Workers Call Off Strike

BK1908134089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Aug 19 (AFP)—Bangladesh's public transport workers called off an indefinite strike Saturday [19 August] after seven hours when they reached an agreement with the government, a Ministry of Communications spokesman said.

The workers signed an agreement with the government Saturday afternoon and would restore service immediately, the spokesman said. "Most of their 11-point charter of demands have been met," the spokesman said, but gave no details.

The agreement was initialled by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Communication Minister Anwar Hussain [Manju] on behalf of the government and by workers' representatives Waziuddin Khan and A. Rashid. But a spokesman for the opposition-backed Road Transport Workers Action Committee, Abdul Mannan, said that despite the agreement, vehicles would not resume normal operations until the committee had made the announcement. He said a formal announcement calling off the strike was expected after a review meeting of the committee leaders later Saturday.

The strike, which began at dawn Saturday, was to demand better pay and working conditions including the release of drivers detained without specific charges and that the government announce a national transport policy.

The committee did not indicate how great a pay rise it was seeking for its membership, but bus drivers here make between 1,500 taka (47 U.S. dollars) and 2,000 taka (63 U.S. dollars) a month.

The opposition-backed strike brought public transport services here and in other cities to a virtual halt. In Dhaka, only pedalled trishaws and a few government and private vehicles were on the streets. [passage omitted]

Agreement Signed; Strike Ends

BK1908145489 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] The Road Transport Workers Action Council has ended its strike. It was ended after an agreement signed today between the Communications Ministry and the council on the basis of full understanding of the council's 11 demands. The agreement was signed on behalf of the government by Prime Minister Kazi Jaffar Ahmed, Communications Minister Anwar Hussain Manju, and the chairman of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority; and on behalf of the council by Waziuddin Khan, convener of the council of the Road Transport Workers; joint convener Vilayet Hussain; and A. Rishid.

The leadership of the council of the Road Transport Workers has appealed to all concerned persons to immediately withdraw the strike and start transport operations all over the country.

Police, Protestors Clash in Anti-Government Strike

BK2108102289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 21 (AFP)—Police fired tear gas and baton charged demonstrators during a six-hour opposition-called general strike here Monday [21 August] against the regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, witnesses said. The strike was observed in most of the country but cars were seen back on the streets and shops began opening for business after it ended at 12 noon (0600 GMT), they added.

Police said they arrested 23 people here on picketing charges during the industrial action but a spokesman for the opposition alliance that called the work stoppage said 25 strike activists were detained. The spokesman of the

left-wing alliance headed by Nirmal Sen claimed police had beaten up 200 supporters of the strike call here and elsewhere in the country but could not give immediate details.

Police said there had been no reports of major casualties.

Witnesses said police had resorted to tear gas and baton charges when they were attacked by stone-throwing activists in the new market district and close to the Dhaka University campus. They said protestors roughed up a suspected security agency informer near the volatile campus.

A student activist belonging to the Biplabi Chatra Dhara (Revolutionary Students Movement) said the group had thrown stones at a car carrying an unidentified minister early Monday, but no damage was caused to the vehicle.

The work stoppage called in Dhaka and most other Bangladesh cities crippled the public transport system here and affected work in banks and government offices where attendance was poor, witnesses and officials said.

The spokesman for Mr. Sen's alliance said the strike call had been widely observed throughout the country. The spokesman, Shahjahan Kabir, added that the alliance would launch on September 13 a month-long anti-government campaign that would include rallies and processions nationwide.

Hundreds of riot and armed police patrolled the streets of the capital where small groups of strike activists held processions and shouted slogans demanding impartial elections and an end to Mr. Ershad's seven-year "autocratic regime."

The strike was also observed peacefully in the southeast port of Chittagong and in the southwest Bangladesh industrial city of Khulna, residents said adding that there were no major incidents of violence.

Officials and people observing the strike said train and domestic plane services were partially affected by the stoppage.

Monday's general strike was the first major work stoppage called this year to focus on opposition demands for the resignation of Mr. Ershad. The opposition wants power handed over to a neutral caretaker government ahead of new elections. Previous work stoppages this year called by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party on January 24 and the Awami League on June 28 were against specific government actions such as new taxes.

Both the opposition alliances are former ruling parties ousted in coups.

The two groups along with the Nirmal Sen alliance and the right-wing Jamaat-i Islami party led a united movement in 1987 for the ouster of Mr. Ershad, but the violent campaign failed when opposition unity fell apart.

Mr. Ershad reportedly told a cabinet meeting that 13 general strikes called by the opposition in 1987 had cost the nation 1.12 billion taka (351.5 million dollars) in lost production and exports.

OBSERVER Details Attempt on Hasina's Life

BK1608135689 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] A group of armed men on Thursday [10 August] midnight opened fire at Dhanmondi residence of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman where Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was holding an organisational meeting. None was, however, injured in the incident.

The armed men riding two auto-rickshaws opened several rounds of gun fire at the house where Sheikh Hasina also reside, sources said.

The attackers also threw some crackers and three grenades, of which two exploded. One unexploded grenade has been recovered by the police, according to party sources. Several bullet holes have been created on the walls of the Dhanmondi residence of Hasina.

When the armed men fired at the house, the policemen on duty at the house also returned several rounds of fire. The attackers fled the scene as soon as the police opened fire.

Meanwhile, the city unit of Awami League held a meeting in front of party central office on Friday to protest the incident. Awami League and its front organisations brought out processions in the city on Friday afternoon protesting and condemning the heinous incident. The party workers were chanting slogans against Freedom Party. They set ablaze four vehicles including a BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] bus, one police jeep, one private car and a corporation microbus at different places in the city.

The police have filed a suo motto case with Dhanmondi police in this connection. Awami League has also recorded another case. Police patrol has been strengthened in Dhanmondi area.

There was, however, no arrest till Friday evening. The attackers were six or seven in number, according to police sources. Senior police officials visited the spot soon after the incident.

BSS adds: The Government has taken security measures for protection of Sheikh Hasina and some other important Awami League leaders, official sources said.

The numbers of guards has been increased at the residence of Sheikh Hasina, they added.

Meanwhile, unruly mobs burnt and damaged 22 vehicles in the city throughout the day.

Of these, 12 vehicles were damaged in the Dhaka University area while 10 others, including a BRTC bus, were set on fire in different parts of the city. The motive behind incidents of Thursday night and Friday could not be ascertained [passage omitted]

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has urged all democratic and pro-liberation forces to rise unitedly against "dictators' killers and communal elements" to ensure a democratic rule in the country, reports UNB.

The Awami League chief was addressing a group of party workers who went to meet her at the Bangabandhu Bhaban on Friday evening in celebrating the victory of the Awami League candidate in the Gazipur Pourasava [municipality] Chairman election held Thursday.

Hasina said the voice of Awami League can not be stifled by resorting to killing and terrorism. She said since its inception, Awami League has been fighting for the sociopolitical and economic emancipation of the deprived multitudes.

She said despite false campaigns for the last 14 years, the image of late leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League could not be erased from the hearts of the people.

On the contrary, she observed, the Awami League has become more popular as the increasing unflinching support of the cross section of the people clearly demonstrates.

Hasina said the victory in the Gazipur Pourashava election where Awami League leader A.K.M. Mozammel Huq won as the Chairman, once again proved clearly that the Awami League would make a clean sweep everywhere if free and fair polls are ensured.

The Awami League chief alleged that the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were rewarded by a previous government while they were politically rehabilitated by the present regime.

She said that the followers of Bangabandhu had always played a heroic role during all the national crises in the past and hoped that they would again play the same courageous role at this critical juncture of the nation.

She called for a resolute onward march with the present anti-autocracy movement to establish an exploitation-free social system as dreamt by the "Father of the Nation."

Awami League leaders Mohammad Nasim, Matia Chowdhury, Rahmat Ali and M. A. Rashid also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, the newly elected Chairman of Gazipur Pourasava and General Secretary of the Gazipur District Awami League, A. K. M. Mozammel Huq garlanded the portrait of the Bangabandhu and presented a bouquet to Sheikh Hasina.

Foreign Minister on Week-Long Visit to DPRK, PRC
BK2108130489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has gone to North Korea and China on a week's visit. He will discuss bilateral, regional, and international issues of common interest with the leaders of these two countries and will explore possibilities of further widening cooperation. Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud will first visit North Korea and then will go to China.

Iranian Ambassador Presents Credentials
LD1208164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Dhaka Mohammad Ganji submitted his credentials to Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Saturday.

During the ceremony, President Ershad referred to the Tehran-Dhaka historical and cultural ties and called for further expansion of relations between the two countries. The president mentioned that various contracts have been signed between the two states for joint cooperation in cultural, political and economic fields.

India

Spokesman Satisfied With Sri Lanka Consultations
BK2108155589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] India has expressed satisfaction that the process of consultation which was resumed with Sri Lanka is continuing. An official spokesman said this in reply to a question from newsmen in New Delhi today. He denied that there is any holdup of the joint communique expected to be issued on the talks. The spokesman also hinted at the possibility of an Indian representative going to Colombo as part of the consultation process.

Delhi Conference Urges Settlement of Afghan Issue
BK2108011289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] In New Delhi, a 2-day roundtable conference on peace prospects in Afghanistan, which concluded today, has called for a negotiated settlement of the Afghan

problem. The statement issued on behalf of the participants said: To start with, an immediate cease-fire should be declared, and it should be supervised by the United Nations.

The participants expressed their strong opinion that Afghanistan needs support from all to defend its independence, sovereignty, and national integrity. They said India can play a decisive role to build opinion in favor of negotiated political settlement. They also hoped that the next NAM [Nonaligned Movement] would take up the Afghan issue and arrive at a consensus to expedite a political settlement of the Afghan crisis.

The participants also appealed to the UN secretary general to use his good office to bring together different warring groups and also signatories of the Geneva accords to help find an amicable and permanent political solution to the Afghan problem.

Republic Suggested as Guarantor for Peace Zone

BK2108080189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Singapore prime minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, has suggested that India should be included as one of the guarantors of the proposed Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality. Addressing a national day rally in Singapore, Mr Lee recalled that when the proposal was mooted in the 1970's and endorsed by the ASEAN, Singapore had said that the zone of peace had to be recognized and guaranteed by the Soviet Union, China, and the United States. He alleged that none of the three countries has guaranteed any such thing and maintained that a commitment from those three powers alone is out of date now. He said India should also be included today as a guarantor of the proposed zone of peace, because since the 1970's, it has become a significant power.

Daily Assails U.S. 'Damning Praise'

BK1908133189 Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Mr Kaul's Happy Tidings"]

[Text] Any instance of Washington agreeing unreservedly with any Indian foreign policy would normally be considered rare, in view of the record of their incompatible positions on a wide range of issues. And the prompt and profusely warm US response to the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and the commitment of Indian troops to a role on the island could not have but sounded suspicious. The questions this raised were amply answered when the American rulers made it clear that what they were supporting was the allegedly rightful role of India as a regional power to regulate regional affairs. The support was being extended in terms that made it appear an attempt to alienate the support of a majority in world opinion, particularly of the developing countries. This is solidarity clearly of a kind that the intended beneficiary should hasten to reject.

Yet, here is a veteran diplomat of India waxing eloquent and enthusiastic about a restatement of the Washington position in the same embarrassingly obnoxious terms. Just back from a three-year ambassadorial term in America, Mr P.K. Kaul is glad to certify that the US sees an "important and dominant" role for India in the South Asian region—as exemplified in its well-advertised appreciation of India's help in putting down a coup threat in the Maldives and the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. It is nothing less than amazing that an official of Mr Kaul's experience and calibre should fail to see the catch in the proposition, to perceive it as damning praise. The right response to the unsolicited testimony should be not a necessarily gentle reminder that India has always stood for equality between states in any region in the world, and that an important and indispensible component of her foreign policy and its conduct has consistently been respect for the sovereignty and independence of all countries, big or small. Any sign of Indian agreement with Washington's approach in this regard can serve neither to smooth ruffled nationalist feathers in Sri Lanka nor to reassure others whose faith in our policy we should continue to value. No dominant role in the region can compensate for the loss of our leading position in the developing world's common endeavour for equality in the comity of nations.

Prominent Kashmir Ruling Party Member Killed

BK2108162889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a prominent National Conference member, Mr Mohammad Yusuf Halwai, was killed in Srinagar this morning by terrorists. Announcing this in the state assembly, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said that the government will spare no efforts in tracking down the killers. The chief minister said that the terrorists, who failed in their attempts to disrupt life in the valley, have taken to killing politicians.

Kashmir Restricts Press Access

BK2108144689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 21 (AFP)—The northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir has slapped curbs on the press following the assassination Monday [21 August] of a leading Muslim politician by militant Muslim separatists, officials here said. Mohammad Yusuf Halwai, local leader of the ruling National Conference Party (NCP), was killed on a street here when a pair of gunmen pumped three bullets into him from point-blank range, police said.

The state government immediately announced the imposition of curbs on the local press, banning publication of reports on violence related to the militants' campaign for an independent Muslim homeland. Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has a reputation as a tourist paradise and Srinagar is its summer capital. But the killing of more than 50 people in the past year in violence linked to the Kashmir separatist campaign has caused tourist traffic to decline. The troubled state has a population of some 59 million according the 1981 census.

Jammu and Kashmir's chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, vowed in the state legislature here: "I swear by his (Mr. Halwai's) blood that I shall not rest in peace till the killers and their harbourers are arrested." Dr. Abdullah, who heads the NCP, also announced curbs on reporting Muslim separatist activities and asked New Delhi to "destroy" alleged training bases for the militants in neighbouring Pakistan.

Dr. Abdullah lashed out against newspapers published in the state, accusing them of overlooking "national interests," and said in the future they would not be allowed to report about Muslim militancy. The current ban would not cover newspapers and news agencies outside the state, he said. Mr. Abdullah described Mr. Halwai as "a brave worker" who, he said, "had laid down his life fighting against pro-Pakistan secessionists."

Indian officials have repeatedly accused neighbouring Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars since 1947, of backing Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir. Islamabad has denied the charge.

Dr. Abdullah said Pakistan and the Muslim militants were trying to undo Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India following the subcontinent's partition in 1947 by the British. "Pakistan will never succeed. We will fight them tooth and nail," he said. Calling for action by New Delhi, he said that "the training camps in Pakistan should be raided and destroyed."

"If we do not act now, we will be faced with conditions similar to that in Afghanistan," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan, which controls the northern third of Kashmir.

Assembly To Consider Press Gag Bill

BK2208080589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a bill to provide for the regulation and control for preventing publication of certain matters in the interest of public order and security was introduced in the assembly today. The bill known as the Jammu and Kashmir Special Powers Press Act 1989 will give the state enough power for preventing any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and prevention of incitement and violent activities in the state.

New Wave of Muslim Unrest Draws New Concern

BK2008065489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 20 Aug 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 20 (AFP)—Muslim separatists have unleashed a new wave of violence in Kashmir, crippling the scenic valley with a series of successful strikes and raising fresh concern at growing anti-Indianism in the powder-keg border region.

The latest violence came during protests called by underground militant groups to coincide with the 42nd anniversary of Indian independence, which they observed as a "black day."

More than 40 people were injured on independenece day Tuesday when militants set off a series of bombs and fought with security forces, as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi spoke to the nation about a threat to India's unity and integrity.

A general strike called by the militants brought the entire valley to a standstill. Shops, businesses and public transport closed down despite the state government's efforts to persuade people to ignore the strike call.

Pakistani flags were hoisted from street lamp poles, fireworks set off and houses illuminated a day earlier when Pakistan celebrated its own independence day. And on Thursday, another general strike hit the valley to mourn Pakistan President Muhammed Ziaul Haq on the first anniversary of his death.

Anti-India protests have often taken the form of demonstrations in favour of Pakistan, which has disputed the ownership of Kashmir ever since the territory acceded to India after the sub-continent's independence in 1947. Pakistan controls the northern third of Kashmir.

The latest trouble was compounded by rioting between Buddhist natives and immigrant Kashmiri Muslims in Ladakh District on August 7 and 8 which left one person dead and more than 40 people injured. "Clearly, the situation is going from bad to worse," said Lal Krishan Advani, president of the Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP). "There appears to be a sinister design by forces across the border to promote the secessionist movement," he said here.

The reference was again to Pakistan, which has been accused by the Indian and Kashmir state governments of training and arming Kashmiri secessionists, who in mid-1988 launched an armed struggle to liberate the region. More than 50 people have died and over 500 been

injured since then, more than at any other period in the past 20 years, in bloodshed linked to the campaign that has introduced what Kashmiris call the "kalashnikov" culture.

"The Indian Constitution and the Indian flag are in danger in Kashmir," said Bhim Singh, leader of Kashmir's Panthers Party, who was in New Delhi to plead with the federal government to "save Kashmir, save India." "Anyone who speaks for India is threatened," he said.

June brought temporary calm after unprecedented violence and a series of crippling strikes in April and May kept the visitors away from the once-famed tourist paradise. Violence broke out again in July, when the militants resurfaced after regrouping during the respite, and stretched into August.

Although not entirely unexpected, the intensity of the anti-India protests came as a surprise in the wake of vehement assertions by the state government that the situation was under control. The concern spilled over into the federal parliament Wednesday when members expressed alarm over what one of their colleagues called "an attempt to break India."

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, who had previously compared the situation in his state to war, said secessionists would be crushed if they pursued violence. Dr. Abdullah, whose National Conference Party rules the state in coalition with Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, expressed confidence his government would bring the "misguided youths," a euphemism for the militants, back into the national mainstream.

"But these are no more than brave words," said the left-leaning daily, PATRIOT, in an editorial. "For the fact is that the National Conference-Congress coalition is not in control of the situation."

Although secessionist movements are no stranger to Kashmir, where a sizeable section of the population have never been able to reconcile itself to the state's accession to India, violence is a new feature.

"This kalashnikov culture is a unique and new thing in our history," said Saifuddin Soz, a National Conference member of the federal parliament. "But this cannot achieve anything and even the terrorists know it." He traced the "armed liberation struggle" to Kashmir's political history and disenchantment younger Kashmiris faced from high unemployment in an economy overwhelmingly dependent on tourists, whose numbers have declined.

"Violence is basically an expression of their anger," he said. "The youth have to be won back. Kashmir is not a mere law and order issue.... It is a very complex problem and there are no simple solutions."

Intelligence Group Behind Assam Agitation

BK1908141389 Delhi PATRIOT in English
12 Aug 89 p 1

[By staff correspondent]

[Text] The country's apex intelligence organisation, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has been masterminding the Bodo agitation for a separate state in Assam, according to a civil liberties organisation in the RAW.

In a letter to the Prime Minister recently, the Forum for Restoration of Civil Liberties in RAW sought Mr Rajiv Gandhi's intervention to stop the RAW operation code named 'Zoom Zoom' allegedly involving R's [rupees] 3 crore meant to destabilise the Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] Government in the State.

This was disclosed in the Rajya Sabha by Telegu Desam member P. Upendra in a privilege motion on Friday demanding an explanation by the Government. Mr Upendra recalled that Home Minister Buta Singh had denied any RAW involvement in the Bodo agitation when confronted with a charge in the House on Wednesday.

The forum's letter to Mr Gandhi states that officers and personnel of RAW and the Special Frontier Force (SFF) of Tibetan commandos have supplied small arms to the Bodo extremists, organised bomb blasts in various parts of Assam, trained activists for subversive activities and briefed them to disrupt goods train services in the State.

The forum, whose members include RAW officers, according to Opposition MPs [members of Parliament], states that RAW secretary A.K. Verma has been directing the operations of the intelligence organisation in which seven top level officers of the intelligence organisation have made as many as 26 trips to Assam during the past two years.

They include Director General of Security R. Govindarajan, Director R. Swaminathan, Director N. Narasimhan, Additional Secretary A. Chandrashekhar, Commissioner (Shillong) B. Bhattacharjee, Joint Secretary M.B. Kunte and Director D. Jamwal. Each of these officers stayed in Assam to direct the Bodo agitation, the forum said.

The civil liberties organisation said that RAW has been working with the Bodo extremists within a few months of the AGP assuming office but the green signal for going ahead with violent activities was given only in early 1988.

Pointing to RAW's involvement in the Gorkhaland agitation in West Bengal, the forum said that small arms provided to the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] were taken back after the Darjeeling Accord and

handed over to the Bodos with express instructions that they were not to be used against Central security forces but only against the Assamese people and Assam police.

RAW maintained houses in Guwahati, Tezpur, Shillong and Dibrugarh, provided shelter to Bodo activists of the Brahma group and other leaders, the forum said. Also, militants were airlifted for briefing and consultations by RAW, it was stated.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill Family of 10

BK2108063989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down 10 members of a family in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, the terrorists struck at the house of a farmer, Gian Singh, in village Badri Kalan and opened indiscriminate fire on the inmates. Among the killed are three women, two men, two girls, and three boys. Security forces have sealed off the area and intensive search for the culprits is continuing.

'Drug Mafia' Threat Seen for Bhutto Government

BK1908115189 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 10 Aug 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Opium, Religion, and Militarism]

[Text] If Ms Benazir Bhutto's government falls in Pakistan, it will not be a mere change of power. The future of democracy in the country is also linked with it. That is why the challenge posed by the drug mafia to her government should be fully understood. How big is this challenge is evident from the fact that Ms Bhutto has been forced to cancel all her travel plans in order to hold high-level consultations at home to save her government and democracy. As the chairman of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], she was to leave for visits to the member countries. Now, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will discharge this duty for her. It is clear that Ms Bhutto has become a hostage of circumstances.

Last month Ms Bhutto ordered arrests of some ringleaders of mafia trafficking deadly narcotics for Pakistan's 700,000 drug addicts. This led to optimism that she is firmly committed to provide a new lease on life to these addicts in Pakistan, especially in Karachi. Soon after the arrests, the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance led by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif started leveling irrelevant allegations against the prime minister. Apparently, Ms Bhutto's anti-narcotics campaign directly affected the vested interests. Until now these elements were only making three allegations against Ms Bhutto. Efforts to improve relations with India were described as her weakness and an insult to Pakistan. They accused her of slowing down the nuclear program and said she was not interested in making the Armed Forces strong. But not influenced by this campaign, Ms Bhutto seemed to be slowly strengthening her grip on power. Steps like retirement of a few military officials, transfer of Inter-Service Intelligence Chief [Hamid Gul] and refusal to recognize the Afghan interim government were seen as signs of her increasing self-confidence. Now if she is feeling insecure after ordering action against the drug mafia, it is easily understood as to how and from where the elements advocating the end of democracy and return of military dictatorship once again in Pakistan find their encouragement. Mujahidin Leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar himself runs a big narcotics trade operation. Ms Benazir Bhutto's measure must have hurt him also. Then, is it that the movement to depose Bhutto's government is part of a wide-spread conspiracy?

The success of Ms Bhutto's government is a guarantee of democracy in Pakistan and India should be interested in improving relations with a democratic Pakistan because the past military dictatorships in Pakistan survived only on anti-Indian platforms and patronized many vested interests. It is imperative for Pakistan to remain democratic and that these vested interests be defeated. It is significant as to how India accomplishes this task without interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs. The need to implement SAARC's joint anti-narcotic programs should be viewed in this context.

New Party Formed by Former Janata Party Member

BK2108125189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Shahabuddin, MP [member of Parliament], today announced the formation of a new party called Insaf [Justice] Party. Mr Shahabuddin, who resigned from the Janata Party last week, said in a statement in New Delhi that the new party will be committed to the principles of democracy, secularism, and safeguarding the interests of minorities and weaker sections. He also announced a 20-member ad hoc national committee for the party.

Gandhi Criticizes Janata Dal Party

BK1908092889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon the youths for the unity and integrity of the nation and to strive for removing poverty. Addressing a largely-attended meeting at Mahboob Nagar in Andhra Pradesh, Mr Gandhi said the Janata Dal is trying to ruin the

integrity of the country by joining hands with divisive forces. He said it is unfortunate that the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh is in (?league) with the Janata Dal.

The prime minister said the state government has failed to submit the report on the recent damages caused by heavy rain in time to the center.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi also said that the state government has failed to control the law and order situation. He said the center is pursuing the policies and programs of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi for upliftment of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and welfare of women.

110 TV Transmitters Planned for Remote Areas

BK2108141289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, has said that 110 additional television transmitters will be set up in the remote areas under recently-approved crash program. He was opening a 10-kilowatt high-power television transmitter in Pune today. Mr Bhagat said Doordarshan [Indian television], which at present has 368 transmitters, will soon have over 534 transmitters.

Iran

Daily on Possible Resumption of Ties With UK

LD2208070189 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—Britain and Iran could immediately re-establish ties, severed in the row over a blasphemous novel, but only when London proves its respect for Islamic values, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"Relations with Britain can be restored even today," said deputy minister for America and Europe, Mahmud Vae'zi, in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES published Tuesday. "But this must be conditional on the British Government being able to convince members of the Majlis that its intentions are genuinely motivated and it will be willing to respect Islamic principles and values."

The Majlis ordered the Foreign Ministry to cut all diplomatic links with London in March after Britain's continued support for Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses".

British officials have admitted the book was deeply offended Muslims [as heard] but refused to ban the book or accept there was a limit to the freedom of expression.

Va'ezi said "the West, and Britain in particular" had not given due attention and respect to Islamic values which were the foundations of the Islamic Republic. "This is the reason for the various fluctuations in relations between Iran and Western countries," he added.

Va'ezi said Tehran-London ties would have remained at a healthy level had Britain not committed "the unpardonable mistake of supporting Salman Rushdie."

Va'ezi also called on the British media to be impartial on issues such as Roger Cooper, a Briton jailed in Iran on spying charges, and said reminded that an Iranian, Kurosh Fuladi, was now unjustly serving a 10-year prison term in Britain. [sentence as received]

Answering to criticism of the British press that Iran did not allow Cooper to attend the funeral of his mother who died recently, he said Fuladi's father also died while his son was in prison. "Cooper is charged with spying during the Iran-Iraq war and only the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran can decide on his case based on the charges filed against him," he said.

Va'ezi also disclosed that Soviet Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperation Konstantin Katuchov was expected to visit Iran next month to follow up the recent agreements reached between the two countries. He said Tehran-Moscow ties were "favorable and good and a token of developing good relations."

Editorial Examines Yaqub Khan's 'Mediation'

NC2208112789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial "Mediatory Bid Not All Too Easy for Yaqub Khan"]

[Text] It is not for us to crow about how right we were when we suggested even before the arrival here of Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that there could possibly be moves at mediation on the hostage situation in Lebanon and U.S.-Iran relations through him as mediator. But what the Pakistani foreign minister himself has said before his departure to Damascus bears us out. And our reason for stating the obvious is only because an Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) report quoting Foreign Ministry sources put us on the mat for what it is said to have called a "suspicious" report, thus questioning our credibility.

The two-day visit by the Pakistani foreign minister was more important than his other visits on previous occasions when only bilateral issues of mutual interest were the main topics discussed. This time, however, according to Mr Yaqub Khan himself, talks centered around the hostage situation in Lebanon and Irano-U.S. relations.

In his meetings with the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr Yaqub Khan is said to have once again been emphatically informed on what Iran's position is; which in fact is what it has been before with no reversals, or changes of any significance. But informed observers, nevertheless, say that the Pakistani minister had called on Iran to moderate its positions somewhat and help resolve the current impasse in relations between Iran and the United States.

These same sources have said that one cannot expect too much from the Yaqub Khan talks and cautioned about being too optimistic, although the fact that he travels to Damascus perhaps in pursuit of the same objectives, indicates that Pakistan hopes it can help, being a friend of both Iran and the United States, to resolve the differences that exist between the two countries.

It should be taken into consideration, however, that the recent remarks by President Bush about Iran in a news conference before the start of his vacations were to some extent soft and hopeful. This can be a winning card in Mr Yaqub Khan's hands. But Mr Yaqub Khan knows well that Tehran has heard similar remarks and hopeful statements in the past from former U.S. Presidents, Reagan and Carter. What is expected instead is a practical step not words to demonstrate the good intentions on the part of the United States. This is what former Presidents Carter and Reagan evaded and now everyone is waiting to see if President Bush will follow his predecessors or will have the political courage to pursue a constructive approach to repair past mistakes.

TEHRAN TIMES on Release of Assets, Mediation

NC2108205189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Has Much To Gain but Will Not Admit It"]

[Text] An unofficial proposal by Iran for the release of the Iranian assets held illegally in the U.S. in return for Iranian help to release the Western hostages in Lebanon was yesterday rejected by White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. He said that by doing so the U.S. in fact would be paying ransom for the hostages. He further tried to portray this as an action against the international rights while the Iranian proposal is based exactly on the normally accepted standards and international laws. What is really and totally against such rights is the U.S. action in holding on to lawful Iranian property for ten years, an action that is certainly condemnable by the international community since there is no justification for it. After all, there is no legitimate reason that the U.S. can adduce for its action which, as far as can be seen, is resort to bullying by a strong power.

Of course in political circles no one takes Mr. Fitzwater's statements very seriously. It is in the tradition of American politics and it is as a consequence of the influence of certain interest groups in that country that leaders have to follow certain policies to appease such groups, while implementing a "hidden" policy that sets the tone for long-term strategical U.S. policy.

President Bush knows very well that by releasing Iranian assets he can recover, to a certain extent, the damage to American prestige in the international legal commmunity. This will also, no doubt, be interpreted as a step towards reduction of American enmity towards Iran in the international arena. This reduction by itself is a major step towards the normalization of relationships between the two countries.

The U.S. is well aware that fulfilling the Iranian demand could be a very easy step, and very practical too. Political observers, however, believe that in the next few days we should expect certain moves towards mediation, of course unofficially, through the good offices of countries with extensive relationships with both countries, Iran and the U.S. These observers give the best chance to Mr. Sahababzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan. But past experience shows that whenever the U.S. has sent an envoy to Tehran the mission has failed due to the lack of substantive proposals by the U.S.

'Leading Observer' on U.S. Rejection of Offer

NC2108211389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 89 pp 1, 14

[By D. Montazeri]

[Text] Tehran—A leading observer on recent developments in Irano-U.S. relations yesterday expressed surprise on the cynical U.S. rejection of the Iranian response to the President George Bush offer.

The observer close to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said that Iran reacted to SUNDAY EXPRESS of London report which last Sunday said that President Bush offered Iran the release of Iranian assets. The weekly paper also said that the U.S. President expected that Iran may help release the Western hostages in Lebanon.

"I really do not understand what the U.S. official rejected...Bush's offer or the Iranian response," the observer said.

On Monday evening, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "...We are not willing to link the Iranian assets question to the hostage question... We reject the offer..."

In response to the SUNDAY EXPRESS story a source close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani conditionally accepted the U.S. proposal, it was reported by the TEHRAN TIMES on Tuesday.

The same source said that the U.S. proposal should be concrete and there should be convincing grounds that these proposals should be translated into action.

The observer talking to the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday said, "What Iran meant was that the move to unfreeze the Iranian assets would have been taken in Iran as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the U.S."

Fitzwater also said, "We are not willing to link the Iranian assets question to the hostage question. That fits within the definition of our policy of not trading arms or money or whatever ever for hostages and of not paying ransom for hostages."

"It's really strange. First the U.S. offers assets for hostages deal and then the spokesman of the White House says that his country is not ready to pay ransom," the observer said.

"Now the question arises as to who is paying ransom and who wants the ransom," he said, adding that "it's a clear policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran i.e. not to pay ransom and not to receive ransom." What Iran has said more than once is that Tehran is ready to cooperate on the hostage issue on humanitarian grounds. Iran also said that the basic problems of Lebanon should be solved on similar grounds. If the Lebanese problem is not solved the problems such as the hostage issue will linger on there," he said.

The observer repeated that Iran really does not know who the kidnappers are.

"We said at times that we have some sort of spiritual influence in that country which can be used for the release of the hostages," he said and pointed out that no guarantee can be given that Iran would definitely succeed in its mission.

Papers Warn West To Stay Out of Lebanon
LD2208080689 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—The Iranian dailies Tuesday warned the West to keep out of Lebanon, stressing that any involvement would further aggrevate the situation.

Referring to steaming of the French aircraft carrier Foch into the Mediterranean Sea to join the French warships, the TEHRAN TIMES said such a move could intensify military and political tension in Lebanon.

Describing the move as "Infringement of Lebanese sovereignty" the paper urged all those concerned for peace to condemn it.

"What can happen if anything does go wrong as a result of miscalculated French moves is most unpredictable—in fact it is our feeling that it can only lead to an expansion of political tension in Lebanon..."

"France by even appearing to take an interest can only cause bottlenecks which will put further off any humanitarian endeavors possible to ease tension in the Lebanese maze," said the editorial.

It said the West should launch all possible efforts and employ diplomacy to contain the crisis in Lebanon but should refrain from resorting to arms.

It should know any tilting towards 'Awn would make it more difficult for Iran or any other country trying to help the situation.

TEHRAN TIMES said the West also should bear in mind that any provocation would lead to reoccurance of terrible events such as the killing of American hostage Col. William Higgins, for which it will have to hold itself responsible.

The best solution is to pave the way for a free election allowing the Lebanese people to choose their leaders themselves, concluded the editorial.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL commenting on the same subject said "the French military move at this crucial juncture in Lebanon is nebulous and tricky. It is a fact that the complex political maze in Lebanon is of French doing."

"Lebanon has been reeling under civil strife [since] 1974. But the latest round of fighting now raging on in Beirut, is threatening to push the country into total collapse," said the paper.

The paper said France has not given up its colonial ideals and many believe Paris was being used as an instrument by its allies and for friends for imperialist muscle-flexing in the Middle East, because the U.S., crippled with hostage issue could not take any action in Lebanon.

Successes of military operations of Muslims in the past ten days has proved that 'Awn-Zionist alliance has been in vain.

"The Muslims have a thousand ways of subverting these conspiracies," it said.

New Chief Justice, Prosecutor General Appointed
LD2108174689 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Moqtada'i was appointed chief justice and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri prosecuter general on Monday. The former spokesman

of the Supreme Judicial Council and the former information minister were appointed by Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. Yazdi exchanged views with heads and members of the different branches of the High Court before making his decision.

Moqtada'i replaces Ayatollah 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili and Reyshahri takes over from Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi Kho'iniha.

Moqtada'i, 53 was born in Esfahan, 450 kms south of Tehran. He began his Islamic studies in Esfahan before moving on to the theological schools in Qom. Less than two months after the Islamic Revolution he was put in charge of Islamic courts in Tehran and Qom as well as other cities by the late Imam Khomeyni. He was a member [of the] Supreme Judicial Council since 1981 and became its spokesman before it was abolished under the reformed constitution.

Reyshahri's most important responsibility before becoming the country's first information minister in 1984 was the formation and heading of Islamic courts in the Armed Forces. He studied theology in Qom and Najaf, in Iraq, and was jailed several months for his anti-shah activities. Reyshahri, 43, was born in the city of Rey, now a suburb of Tehran.

Mohajerani Appointed Legal Affairs Official

LD2108110889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] In the course of a decree issued by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr Seyyed Fatollah Mohajerani was appointed to the post of deputy president of legal and parliamentary affairs. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of Exalted God. Esteemed Mr Seyyed Fatollah Mohajerani, in view of your record and experience, I appoint you as the deputy president for legal and parliamentary affairs in accordance with Article 124 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution. I pray to almighty God for your success in performing that grave duty.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[dated] 21 August 1989

New Ministers' Policy Programs Outlined

LD2108170989 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—New faces in the cabinet introduced by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani have announced fresh plans to transform or improve the policies of their predecessors.

Economics Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh aims for a "complete review" of foreign exchange policy while Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji hopes to revive "traditional" private sector distribution channels.

Higher Education Minister Mostafa Moin intends to attract more scholars from inside and outside Iran to enhance academic standards and ensure that smartest students would enter the universities.

The programs of 14 of the 22 ministers were published in the press Monday, less than a week before the Majlis is due to start a debate on a vote of confidence for each one of them.

Former Central Bank governor Nurbakhsh gave top priority for "complete review of Iran's foreign exchange market. Government policy should prevent the rise of hard currency rates in the free market and allow increased exports of non-oil goods. Earnings from exports should rise as to create enough hard currency to cover import costs. Currently non-oil exports make up less than 10 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings. The rest comes from oil sales. Nurbakhsh calls for a stable tax policy which would encourage long and medium term investment in industry. He also hopes to boost public confidence in the banking system.

'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji as commerce minister wants to "reform the distribution networks of basic goods" as well as to "reconstruct traditional" distribution channels, an apparent reference to the private sector. His program also calls for "handover of the unnecessary part of the government's responsibilities in distribution affairs to other sectors." Vahaji has vowed to stabilize the subsidized price of basic goods.

Mostafa Moin as minister of higher education wants to attract and make better and more use of scholars inside and outside Iran including "prominent world scholars" with "material and spiritual" incentives. He will change vetting procedures in universities to pave way for the progress of students with the highest academic standing and provide scholarships for studying in Iran and in other countries with a good academic reputation. Moin will increase investment to build more universities and propose plans to "seek the proper and all-out collaboration of the public in scientific... activities."

Iraj Fazel at the head [of the] Health Ministry, which is responsible for medical universities and industries as well as general healthcare, also hopes to "continue the serious efforts to meet the need for professors..." At the same time he will create an "attractive and absorbing" climate for the academic staff and guarantee job security. Fazel also intends to make full use of the pharmaceutical industry's capacity by reconstructing and reviving idle factories and encourage the private sector to set up new plants for the production of medical items.

Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Minister Akbar Torkan aims to centralize the military industries of the Islamic Revolution's Guards and the Army. The former head of the Defence Industries Organization will make use of the excess capacity of military factories for the production of non-defence products.

Habibi, Mohajerani Biographies Detailed
LD2108124789 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday [21 August] appointed Justice Minister Dr Hasan Habibi has his first vice president. He also made Deputy Prime Minister Atollah Mohajerani his vice president in legal and parliamentary affairs.

"In view of your record and past experience I appoint you to the position of first vice president according to Article 124 of the Constitution...," Hashemi-Rafsanjani's letter read. "I hope with divine confirmations, and cooperations and consensus with my deputies and the honorable Ministerial Council you will succeed in carrying out your duties and in serving Islam, the revolution and the people."

The appointments come two days after Hashemi-Rafsanjani introduced his 22-member Cabinet to the Majlis.

According to constitutional reforms approved in the July 28 referendum, the president can appoint deputies without the need for Majlis confirmation.

Habibi, 52, served as justice minister since 1984 under Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. He was also briefly higher education minister in the 1979 provisional government. He was one of the main architects of the Islamic Republic's draft constitution but failed in his bid to become president in the first elections in 1980. Born March 6, 1937 in Tehran, Habibi holds a Ph.D. in sociology and law. He received traditional theological training before continuing his studies in universities in Iran and France.

He was a member of the Council of Writers at the PAYAM DANESHJOU (MESSAGE OF THE STUDENT) newspaper between 1960-64 while taking part in anti-Shah political activities. He has also been Iran's representative at the UNESCO Executive Council since 1987.

Ataollah Mohajerani, born in 1954 in Arak, 290 kms south of Tehran, has acted as deputy prime minister for legal and parliamentary affairs since 1985. He also served as Iran's cultural attache in Pakistan for a year in 1984. He received his MA in Iranian history and culture with honors from Shiraz University while taking part in the Islamic student movement against the shah's regime. He has written political and cultural commentaries in the daily ETTELA'AT regularly since 1985, including a series of articles critical of Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses'. Mohajerani has also been a member of the board of governors at the Farabi Film Institute and the Supreme Council of the Islamic Republic News Agency.

In his letter of appointment, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted Mohajerani's experiences and expressed hope that he would be successful in his new job.

Khamene'i on Revolutionary-Islamic Foreign Policy
LD2208120989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning met the foreign affairs minister along with that ministry's deputies and directors, as well as ambassadors and heads of our country's diplomatic legations abroad. He stressed the need to continue the commitment to revolutionary-Islamic principles in foreign policy, as before.

In that meeting, our country's leader presented some guidelines to the diplomatic envoys of our country in various countries of the world, while pointing to the role and importance of diplomacy in determining the fate of a country, adding:

[Announcer] In the diplomatic world, we are inflicted by an imposed and unwanted war. At present, political Zionism and arrogant powers—such as the United States and its allies—are opposed, all over the world, not only to Islam but to the principle of religion as a whole. They have concentrated all their resources on our diplomacy. Iran, on the international diplomatic stage, is single-handedly facing all those who by themselves have no political issue vis-a-vis us, but Islam is the issue for their dispute with us.

The Muslim's Vali-e Amr graciously said: Although our diplomatic organizations started from scratch, we have reached a good level of intellectual and political growth. The political diplomacy and the stances of our country's Foreign Ministry during the last few years have delineated the right path for revolutionary and Islamic diplomacy.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution continued his guidances by stressing the need for adopting Islamic positions in our country's foreign policy, graciously stating: In our revolutionary-Islamic diplomacy, we must in no way face the enemy from a position of weakness or fear, but we must face the great powers with bravery and strength through making decisions based on logic and reason. Being a revolutionary on the diplomatic scene means that we must preserve our revolutionary-Islamic stances in a firm manner and without vesting hopes in some of the false hope-inspiring faces [Chehreh-ha-ye Omid Bakhsh-e Kazeb]. This is the correct path for our diplomacy.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then pointed to Imam Khomeyni's satisfaction with the Foreign Ministry and the general course of Iran's diplomacy, graciously stating: Our great Imam—may God be satisfied with his deeds—that wise and far-sighed personality, had repeatedly expressed his approval and support for the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He left us with his total satisfaction with the general course of Iran's diplomacy. The magnificence of Iran which is felt all over the world and the success that our diplomacy has achieved, all emanate from the Islamic commitment of our political envoys.

Islamic commitment must be totally preserved, as the integrity of personality of ambassadors and our diplomatic envoys is dependent on such commitments. He then mentioned this point that Iran's ambassadors must be pious, free, revolutionary, and non-corruptable. He further described the foreign policy of our country, graciously stating: Our foreign policy will not change in the future, and we will continue it as before. We have repeatedly clarified that our foreign policy is based on both parties' interests and the non- existence of bullying and hegemony, as well as on the never-changing and fundamental principle of neither East Nor West. We are prepared for healthy relations, which are devoid of impositions—except in cases that we have discerned [as heard].

In conclusion, Iran's leader invited our country's political envoys abroad to move towards consolidation of relations based on Islamic ideas and thought.

According to the same report, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, made a short speech during the meeting in which he pointed to the seminar of Iran's ambassadors and diplomatic envoys. He further described the active role and the serious presence of Iran on international scenes, stating: We owe the great part of our successes to your excellency's support and guidances, and we must provide the suitable means for concentration and the correct conduct of foreign policy in the new era [sentence as heard].

Majlis Speaker Karrubi Affirms Islamic Principles

LD2008220289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0940 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi at the shura ceremony at Imam Khomeyni's shrine on 20 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is necessary to draw your attention to a few points. The first point is that adherence to Islamic principles and refraining from those which are against them, involves obstacles, hazards, and hardship, and every nation should bear all such obstacles and hardships.

The second point is that adherence to Islamic principles and refraining from those which are against them is not exclusive to a single society, nor a single country, nor even a specific ummah living in a particular territory. Does this mean that if, in Iran, Islamic principles are adhered to, if a government has been set up, and if the Islamic revolution has occured, they no longer have any obligation toward others? Should they no longer speak about tyrannies? Yes, of course they should! It is when Islam attains a certain power and might, in practice, that its responsibilities increase. You should act in the interests of those who are deprived, who are weak, who are stifled. You should raise your voices on their behalf and rebel. You should not remain apathetic in the fear of their deprivations.

Now that we have established an Islamic Republic, and our society is an Islamic one, we should think of the other Muslims more than ever before. Our revolution is not merely a national revolution. It is not a revolution exclusive to a race or a tribe. Our revolution is an Islamic Revolution, and we feel responsible for all Muslims and for the deprived. Now that the Palestinians are in captivity and the usurper Zionists are treatening them in the worst possible manner, attacking Muslims like wild beasts or even worse, and when the world of blasphemy is also supporting the Zionists, plundering the Palestinians' land, demolishing their homes, breaking their arms and legs, martrying their children and wives while the world is watching—we bear greater responsibility than ever.

It is in this connection that we should try to expose and confront the usurper and occupying Zionists. It is a cause for much regret that the criminal world, the ruthless world, the aggressive world, and the aggressive superpowers, witness these crimes and treacheries and yet they support them. When such carnage, blood and fire, destitution, and making people homeless exist for the Lebanese nation, how can a Muslim be a Muslim and yet remain apathetic, when they are (?inflicting such havoc) on Muslims, when they put such pawns as Michel 'Awn (?into power), and the great powers support them, banishing a nation from its land.

How can a government call itself an Islamic government and yet fail to supoort them? It is strange that on such occasions the world takes no notice of cries for human rights, and the voice calling for human rights is not heard. Therefore, the second point of my speech is that our prophetic mission, our responsiblity, and the Islamic Republic system is for all human beings and in the interests of all human beings. Our power is not over the people but for the people. [sentence spoken in Arabic] (?Our abilities are used) in the interest of the deprived and oppressed. This was my second point.

The third point is that a prime example of adherence to Islamic principles and refraining from those which are against them, is that of fighting against tyranny, fighting

against the superpowers, and fighting against oppression. But we should know that the basic principle is that of fighting against the oppressive powers and the roots of corruption.

The fourth point is the question: Should adherence to Islamic principles and refraining from those which are against them be exclusive to one group? Well, of course any (?obligated Muslim) should possess the conditions and knowledge and awareness of the issues on a basic level, and anyone beyond this stage has such an obligation.

One day [name indistinct] came to see Imam Sadeq, may God's blessing be upon him, and said: Sir! My job is cotton farming; we hire camels.... [Karrubi changes thought] There are individuals who go to Mecca on pilgrimage. Sometimes there are women who wish to perform the pilgrimage unescorted—that same hajj which the Saudi family has deprived the resistant and self-sacrificing nation of Iran of attending. For what crime or sin have they condemned the Iranian nation? For saying "Death to Israel," for the disavowal of infidels, for the disavowal of America, for enmity toward the enemies of God, for voicing the cries of the oppressed and innocent nations with such power to be heard by the world? They were deprived of attending God's sanctuary, and as we have seen, they massacred a great number of (?the people of God) and the upright servants of God. They think that depriving the people of the hajj ceremony will make the people relinquish their responsibilities and obligations. But as our great imam [Khomeyni] graciously said on the anniversary of this calamity: Whether gates of the prophet's city are open to us or whether they are closed, what is certain is that our bond with the prophet of God is unbreakable, and we will never abandon God's principles.

Musavi Bids Farewell to Government Colleagues

LD2108182689 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hoseyn Musavi Monday bid farewell from government with the appointment of the first vice president by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"I hope the honorable nation, especially the deprived, will pardon me for my shortcomings and those of my colleagues," he said in a message to the nation and his former staff. "...I hereby say goodbye to all hard-working and revolutionary brothers and sisters in all executive bodies and I wish them success in serving Islam and the Islamic nation."

Musavi moved out of office after the appointment of his Justice Minister Hasan Habibi as the first vice president.

Musavi became prime minister in October 1980, when Iran was facing testing internal and external crises a year after the start of the Iraqi war and at the peak of a terrorist campaign.

Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar along with President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i were martyred in a bomb attack two months before Musavi took office.

He has been credited for supporting the poor by introducing and expanding the rationing system for cheap and fair distribution of basic food and other necessary items during the war. His skill in handling the often divided cabinet members and using their skills to maintain the country's affairs won him crucial and frequent support from the late Imam Khomeyni.

But in a surprise resignation a few weeks after the ceasefire in the war, he was criticized by the imam and told to return to work. "Our biggest honor in life is that we were called by the imam of the umma (Khomeyni) as the servants of the deprived," Musavi said in his message. "Wherever we may be we will not lose this honor and we will continue to support the great leadership of the revolution and be in the service of the sincere officials of the country..."

Musavi was not among President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed cabinet.

"I wish from the Almighty God success for the new government of the Islamic Republic." he said.

Employees Bid Farewell

LD2008223189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Members of the Supreme Council of Institutions affiliated with the Prime Minister's Office [shora-ye ali-ye nehad- haye mostaqar dar nakhost vaziri] this afternoon met with Mir Hoseyn Musavi. In this meeting, a report was first presented on the activities undertaken by this council. Then, Musavi, addressing the members of this council said: All the organs render services to the system of the Islamic Republic, but we are witness to more faith and enthusiasm in the institutions. He also, in his remarks, emphasized the continuation of the activities of the Supreme Council of Institutions, and giving importance to its duties, he expressed optimism on the point that: No noticeable danger is threatening the institutions of the revolution.

The employees of the Prime Minister's special investigation office [daftar-e peygiri-haye nakhost vazir], too, this morning, in a farewell meeting with Mir Hoseyn Musavi, head of the cabinet, after presenting a report of their activities to him, thanked the latter and expressed appreciation for the support and timely sensitivities of Musavi in following up the people's affairs. Musavi then

remarked on the role of this office in eliminating the people's problems and in attending to the deprived and the needy, and he thanked the employees of that office for their sincere efforts.

Members of the Headquarters for Economic Mobilization and Central Headquarters for Reconstruction and Renovation of War-Stricken Areas also participated this morning in a farewell meeting with Musavi. In this meeting, after the presentation of a report on the activities of these headquarters, Musavi was thanked for his attention.

Next, Musavi talked about the sensitive role of these headquarters during the stages of the imposed war and emphasized the continuation and greater expansion of their activities and thanked the employee members of these headquarters for their sincere efforts.

President's Supporters Begin Pressure Campaign

LD2108181489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] In order to obtain a vote of confidence for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed Cabinet which is to be presented to the Majlis, his supporters in the Majlis have embarked on an intense process of campaigning. They (?claim), for instance, that to refrain from voting for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet is the same as refraining from giving a vote of approval to Khomeyni's will and to the system of the Islamic Republic. It is expected that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, using his supporters in the Majlis, will bring more pressure to bear on his opponents. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supporters are warning some of their extreme opponents in the Majlis that the fate of Shahpasand, the Karaj opposition deputy, will befall them if they do not support the new Cabinet.

Iranian Toilers Radio on President's Cabinet

LD2108202489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Dear listeners. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a letter to Majlis Speaker Karrubi introduced his proposed 22-member cabinet to the Majlis to obtain a vote of confidence. Even though the new cabinet is composed of different factions, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not yet managed to put together a (?solidly formed) government from among this own supporters, the supporters of the leader-president gang have the upper and in the proposed new cabinet. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, despite the request of 138 Majlis deputies to keep Mohtashemi in the cabinet, and also the (?the lack) of the presence of so-called strong figures in the cabinet, has selected most of the proposed ministers from among technocrats and specialists who in advance have been (?condemned) as the non-Hezbollahi U.S.-educated elements by the [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Following criticisms voiced by opponents of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his intended policies, including the letter of the majority of Majlis deputies, which was read on Saturday [19 August] in the Majlis, and which assessed that dropping Mohtashemi from the new cabinet would be in line with what foreign powers desired, Hashemi-Rafsanjani hastily introduced the members of his new cabinet a few hours after the reading of the 138 Majlis deputies' letter in an effort to foil any subsequent actions by his rivals. It should be noted that before this the regime's radio had reported that the cabinet would be introduced on Sunday [20 August].

It is natural that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's (?selected) cabinet is one that is free from representatives of rival groups, is composed of individuals who are (?influential) but at the same time submissive, who are neither statesmen nor claim to have any specific (?political line), but who will be executors of his policies. But noting the balance of powers and existing circumstances, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has tried to create a cabinet to meet these needs. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has tried, wherever he was forced to accept representatives from opposing camps in the cabinet, to (?avoid individuals that are influential in the government) and put forward as candidates second or third-rate individuals. Replacing Mohtashemi with 'Abdollah Nuri, and choosing Fallahian instead of Reyshahri are examples of this. By choosing Nuri as interior minister, he has, in reality, reduced the Nuri's power in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps—Nuri was formerly the (?trusted) representative of Khomeyni and a rival to Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. Moreover, all the factions of the regime are (?partners) in the use of a policy of coercion and repression (?inside the country) [words indistinct]. Now, half the Majlis deputies who want Mohtashemi to retain his post as interior minister either have to refrain from giving a vote of confidence to Nuri, or they have to put pressure on him to step down from being a candidate of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet so as to open the way for Mohtashemi.

(?It may be said) that the Majlis is now entering its most intense period of conflict with Hashemi-Rafsanjani. However, irrespective of how the conflict between the rival factions within the Majlis will influence the direction of the vote of confidence in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet recent events show that depsite the faction-positioning of Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i in their (?outward display of politica alertness) and [word indistinct] and also despite placing behind them a particular internal power struggle, the lack of political stability will continue to be the fundamental obstacle to any (?advance) in their economic program. The most important reasons for economic stagnation and paralysis of the regime are its inability to plan, shortage of financial resources, the absence of political security, the multiplicity of executive management and (?differences) in economic policies, and these will continue to plague the regime.

Qom Seminary Group Sends Cable to President

LD2008221689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The scholars' society of Qom seminary sent a cable to Hashemi-Rafsanjani after he took the presidential oath. According to the Central News Unit, part of the cable states: Hopefully, Your Excellency can expand the pure Muahmmadan Islam in Iran and achieve the holy goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran using the special knowledge given to you by Almighty God and by the choice of the revolutionary, decisive, dedicated, and devoted figures and also using the guidance of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the dear and honorable leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Yazdi Interviewed on Judicial Tasks

LD2008213389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 20 Aug 89

[From "The Voice of Justice" program]

[Excerpts] This morning a farewell ceremony was held for the Supreme Court president and the state prosecutor-general in the Ministry of Justice assembly hall. Following the approval of the concept of concentration in the amendment to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, the Supreme Judicial Council no longer has a legal position and is giving way to the head of the judiciary. After the eminent leader appointed Ayatollah Haj Shaykh Mohammad Yazdi as the head of the judiciary, judicial officials and staff of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic revolution tribunals and prosecutor's offices and affiliated organizations bade farewell today to Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and to state prosecutor general Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha. They met Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, and spoke to him for the first time in his position as judiciary head.

To mark the occasion, the "Voice of Justice" reporter spoke with Ayatollah Yazdi. I draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] It would be appropriate for me to ask you about the main points of your plans. What will you be doing?

[Yazdi] My initial idea is that the main issues of concern to the country's judicial machinery are: first, the question of speed. In other words, there must not be a long gap between the time that a plaintiff comes to complain or to ask for the fulfillment of his rights, make a claim or dispute, until the time when he is given the final verdict. There must not be a long gap which would be inappropriate to that dispute.

The second issue is attention to detail. In other words, simply because dossiers must be dealt with and verdicts given more rapidly, it should not be the case that carelessness occurs resulting in someone's rights being violated or suspicion being cast one someone without reason. Therefore, the first thing is speed, then, attention to detail; and both of them must be strictly observed.

The third point is the integrity of the machinery. In other words, because the machinery is very sensitive, it must be the cleanest machinery in this system (of government). In other words, no one must think that, because of power or social position or fame and fortune, that they can have the influence to contravene someone's rights. And no downtrodden, powerless, deprived, or meek person must imagine that because they have no one who will defend them, the judicial machinery will not attend to their rights properly. Rather, the work of the machinery on the whole must be such that the most powerless and the most powerful people, if they feel that they have an entitlement or that an injustice has been committed against them, will have their case dealt with by the machinery. Thus, the third issue is integrity.

[Reporter] Mr Yazdi, in view of the fact that the introductory session took place today and that your eminence officially began your work today, please tell us what changes you will bring about in the system and will you introduce new colleagues?

[Yazdi] As you know, since the law stipulates that the Supreme Court president and the state prosecutor general must be installed after consultation with the Supreme Court judges, I expect that in the near future, God willing in the forthcoming days, there will be consultations with the honorable judges; and after the consultation, the names of the people stipulated in the law will be announced. Of course, in the meantime, I have been undertaking studies, consultations, and conversations about some people. However, it is natural that, in order to adhere to the law, after consultations I will try in the case of those two specific posts (?which we have before us) and about which specific qualifications have been indicated—as you know, both must be mojtaheds, they must be just, they must be wise managers, they must be familiar with judicial matters, the must have all those qualifications—God willing, they will be presented in the near future.

As for other posts and officials in charge of organizations affiliated with the Ministry of Justice or sections of the Ministry of Justice, let me say that we do not intend to disturb everything right away. Rather we intend for everything to remain in its place as we start and that we will move forward slowly. Of course, whenever we see that something is not in the proper place, it is natural that we should remove it or that we should put it in a more correct place. God willing, we will do that. Not only persons, but even some sections and organizations, on the basis of regulations pertaining to the system as a whole. I will state that intention, that promise to the Iranian nation: That we will be especially vigilant, we who have been given the responsibility for supervising

the enforcement of the law. It is natural that this should be observed more in the judicial machinery than anywhere else. We will proceed on that basis.

[Reporter] As your Eminence knows, recently our judicial system has been more active in the battle against narcotics smugglers. Will that continue?

[Yazdi] Fortunately, our nation is very pleased with that development and with that great service, the law on which was approved by the Assembly for the Discernment of What is Best and which was assigned a central headquarters for implementation, and in connection with which the cooperation of the judicial machinery and the headquarters plays the most important role. It is natural that we will be even stricter. In other words, we will try to maintain the previous level, within the limits of our capacity. Again, my personal view is that the task should continue with greater speed, greater care, and greater support. That is to say, we cannot sit and watch the corruption brought about in the country by a number of evil people who are after profit through the sale and purchase of narcotics and who destroy the lives of our youth. God willing, we will pursue them to the limits of our strength and power. [end recording]

Velayati Addresses Foreign Envoys on Iraq
LD2108193589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tonight's first news report is about a speech made by Foreign Minister Velayati at a gathering of ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and foreign diplomats in Iran.

Mr Velayati announced: The Iraqi regime should be forced to comply with [UN Security Council] Resolution 598; instead of delaying the implementation of the commitments, it should clarify its position toward the resolution, and also the secretary general's proposals and the four-point plan, which was proposed as a solution on 1 October 1988.

Mr Velayati, who was speaking on the 1st anniversary of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, while referring to the course of the peace talks and the Iraqi regime's obstructionism in this connection, declared: The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] is prepared to implement Resolution 598 immediately, in full, without any conditions. Our past record in accepting almost all the secretary general's proposals is the best proof of our sincerity and political will.

Referring to the binding nature of Resolution 598, the foreign minister said: The Security Council, in the first article of the resolution, ordered Iran and Iraq to withdraw to the internationally recognized borders immediately after the cease-fire. The explicit content of this article means there is no room for any doubt or misinterpretation, and both the cease-fire and the withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders are binding.

Referring to the secretary general's timetable, prepared in August 1988, on the basis of which the withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized border should have taken place within 13 days after the cease-fire, he said: The IRI agreed with the plan, whereas the Iraqi regime, by setting preconditions such as dredging the Arvand River as a preliminary step for the withdrawal of the forces, has in practice disrupted the implementation of Resolution 598.

Referring to the Iraqi rejection of the four-point plan, prepared in October 1988, he said: The Iraqi regime, during the past 9 months, has refrained from accepting the four-point plan, while at the same time, by resorting to some crafty moves, has asked only for direct talks. The foreign minister, in response to Iraq's stance in asking for direct talks, said: The IRI, on the basis of its trust in the secretary general, has announced that it is prepared to proceed with direct talks under the auspices of the secretary general. However, it seems that Iraq, by raising the issue of direct talks, intends to challenge Resolution 598. He continued: During the past year Iraq tried to open talks on the essence of the resolution itself so as to rewrite the resolution to its own liking; in other words, it intends to undermine Resolution 598 and the secretary general's role.

The foreign minister, after pointing out that the dire consequences of Iraq's policy and its outcome are quite clear to the Security Council, said: The IRI will continue to resist this Iraqi policy, and we are certain that the secretary general and his team will perform their task as before.

Referring to the contradictory stance of the Iraqi regime in the statement released by Saddam on 6 August 1988, which separated the cease-fire and its related issues from the agenda of the direct talks, Mr Velayati said: In this statement, Iraq insisted that dredging the Arvand River is a condition for securing the cease-fire, and when the secretary general put this issue under Article Four of the Resolution, Iraq refused to accept his proposal.

He added: In fact, the Iraqi regime, with its pretext of dredging the Arvand River as a precondition, intends to weaken an internationally sound [Algerian] accord which was signed and approved by the present Iraqi rulers and is registered with the UN secretary general.

Referring to the fact that the presence of the Iraqi Armed Forces in Iranian territory is the most obvious form of active hostility, the foreign minister stated: The IRI will not deem any alteration in the form of direct talks to be worthy of consideration until withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from its territory.

In another part of his remarks, referring to the extensive propaganda waged by the Iraqi regime regarding the exchange of POW's, he said: The IRI is ready to implement Resolution 598 immediately concerning the articles on the release and return of all POW's. He referred

to the Iraqi regime's lack of sincerity in giving an accurate number and names of Iranian POW's to the Red Cross, and said: On the basis of the public comments made by the Iraqi authorities, this regime is holding more than 50,000 Iranian POW's, whereas it has agreed to allow the Red Cross to register only the names of 18,000 Iranian POW's. In addition, the Iraqi regime, after the establishment of a cease-fire, captured 700 Iranian military personnel. The Iraqi intransigence in releasing these people is the most clear manifestation of that regime's devious propaganda and its lack of sincerity.

In conclusion, Mr Velayati asked if Iraq is ready to immediately and unconditionally implement Resolution 598 and accept the Secretary General's four-point plan? He said: Under present conditions, the responsibility of the international community—particularly the Security Council, which has committed itself to guaranteeing the parties' commitment to resolution 598—is abundantly clear. That responsibility being to exert pressure on the party which has so far prevented the implementation of the said resolution by its making preconditions.

Condemns Iraqi Troop Presence

LD2108150389 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Iraq must fully comply with U.N. Resolution 598 and the U.N. secretary general's four-point plan for its implementation, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said. "The presence of Iraqi troops in Iranian soil is independently an obvious evidence of Iraq's ill will and hostility," he stressed. He was addressing a gathering of Iranian diplomats stationed abroad here Monday [21 August].

He said Iraq had continued its occupation of parts of the Iranian soil in blatant disregard of Resolution 598 which calls for the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders. The Islamic Republic was ready to execute the resolution without preconditions, he said. "Iran has always accepted almost all proposals of the U.N. secretary general" Javier Perez de Cuellar he said.

But Iraq's demand for dredging the Arvand River was one issue which had needlessly stalled the peace talks between the two countries, he added.

He said Iraq was "pointlessly" insisting on direct talks without the presence U.N. mediators, with a view to "gradually paper over the resolution and doing as it wishes."

The U.N. Security Council cannot do better than exert pressure on Iraq which has deadlocked the talks by bringing up topics irrelevant to the UN resolution and the four-point plan of secretary general, he said.

Six Somalian POW's Released to ICRC

NC2208083589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Continuing its humanitarian acts and the unilateral release of prisoners of war, Iran released six Somalian prisoners of war yesterday and handed them over to officials of the International Red Cross Committee to be sent to their country.

The prisoners were 30-year-old (Ahmad 'Ali Gulet), 32-year-old (Adam Hasan Jama), 31-year-old (Ahmad 'Ali Hasan), 35-year-old (Vahir 'Elmi Diriyeh), 34-year-old (Ahmad Mahmud Alam), and 32-year- old (Nur Mo'allem Mohammad). They were captured by the combatants of Islam during the Fath al-Mobin and Kheybar operations and were in the Islamic Republic of Iran for between 5 and 7 years.

In a brief interview with our correspondent, 32-year-old (Nur Mo'allem Mohammad) described the Iraqi regime's beginning the war as unwise and stated: I was a student in Iraq and was forced by the Iraqi regime to go to the war against the combatants of Islam. I am happy that after being captured, I came to know the Islamic revolution. I will do my best to convey the message of the Islamic revolution to my country.

The Somalian charge d'affaires was present at the ceremony to see the prisoners off. In his remarks to the prisoners he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humantarian gesture.

Then (Ruh Navaz), member of the committee for Iraqi prisoners of war and representative of the Secretary of the Supreme Defense Council said in his remarks to correspondents: The Islamic Republic of Iran has handed over 1,423 people to the International Red Cross in 21 phases of release, while Iraq has released 949 Iranian prisoners, 456 of whom were civilians and Iranian citizens. He added: After the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi regime stated that the number of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war is equal. This is said when we have handed a list of all Iraqi prisoners of war to the International Red Cross, while Iraq has listed the names of only 19,000 so far and is preventing the International Red Cross from listing the names of the remaining prisoners.

More on POW's Release

LD2108180189 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 21 Aug 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Six Somali citizens who were taken captive in the Iraqi war were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] Monday. They were delivered at Tehran's Mehrabad

Airport to ICRC officials at the presence of Somalia's Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Abdi Haji Liban who thanked Iranian authorities.

A member of Iran's POW Affairs Committee told IRNA that this was the 22nd time the Islamic Republic had unilaterally freed war captives on humanitarian grounds.

A total of 1,447 had been freed on Iran's initiative, including 38 non-Iraqis, he said.

The Somalians were named as Ahmed Ali Guled (30), Adam Hassan Jama (32), Ahmed Ali Hassan (31), Dohir Ilmi Diriye (35), Ahmed Mahmoud Alim (34), and Noor Moalim Mahmoud (32).

Speaking to IRNA three of them admitted that they had joined the Iraqi Army for money. But the other three said they worked in the Iraqi Oil Company and were forced to guard oil installations in the Majnun Island in the Hoveizeh marshlands bordering Iran in southern Iraq.

Asian Energy Institute Elects President

LD1908174689 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19, IRNA—Dr. Ali Shams Ardekani of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saturday [19 August] was elected the president of the Asian Energy Institute (AEI) launched Friday [18 August] with the membership of the energy institutions of eleven countries.

Dr. Ardekeni, the former Iranian ambassador to Kuwait and a senior advisor to the minister of foreign affairs, in a press conference Saturday said the meeting for the launching of the AEI has prepared the constitution of the institute and elected the office-bearers.

He said the meeting has discussed different energy related matters including world energy market and its effects on international market specially on Asian scene, inter-regional trade on natural gas in Asia, environmental impact on urban transportation, economy and environment of different type of power plants and the joint training and dissimination to the public about energy issues.

Besides the president (Iran) the other elected office-bearers include Dr. Saswinadi Sasmojo of Indonesia, the vice president, Mr. Preeti Malhotra of Tata Energy Institute (India) the secretary and Dr. K. Ikhtiyar Omar of Bangladesh, the treasurer. The elections are valid for three years. The AEI will be temporarily housed in the Tata Energy Research Institute at New Delhi.

By launching the AEI, the Asian countries are expected to cooperate in the energy sector on the line of the Paris-based European International Energy Institute which determines the energy issue of the EEC countries.

The idea of launching the Asian energy institute was initiated by the Iranian delegation headed by Dr. Ardekani at the Asian commemoration conference on Oct. 1987 held in New Delhi. The proposal was passed as a resolution and the work was under progress since then.

Esfahan Oil Refinery 95 Percent Restored

LD2008222289 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Esfahan, Aug. 20, IRNA—Some 95 percent of the war-damaged units of the Esfahan oil refinery have been reconstructed and put into operation, an official announced Sunday.

The refinery's head, Eng. Ibrahimi, cited the basic repair of the refinery's distillation tower number one as an "unprecedented achievement" in the country's oil industry.

He said the repair job was carried out despite advice from some experts that it could be put back into working condition. [sentence as received]

He said the refinery produced 150,000 barrel of kerosene and gas oil, 50,000 barrels of petrol, 15,000 barrels of liquid gas and a large amount of tar oil per day.

Industrial Townships Started in East Azarbayjan

NC2008145089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 89 p 15

[Text] Tehran—Construction of two industrial townships in the northwestern province of East Azarbayjan started Monday in the presence of Industries Minister Gholamreza Shafe'i.

The first one, located 40 kms south of Tabriz, will be errected on 600 hectares of land with a capital of about rials 10 billion (U.S. $138.8 m).

Some 500 small and large industrial units will be set upin the first phase and within a period of ten years more than 18,000 jobs would be created.

The units would operate in various fields of metal, non-metal minerals, foodstuffs, leather and clothing with investment of more than rials 40 billion (U.S. $555.5 m [million])

The second and third phases of the township would be constructed on 200 hectares.

The second township located in Marand, northwest of Tabriz would be allocated to the production of various ceramic products with an initial capital of rials 20 billion (U.S. $277.8 m)

Marand's ceramic institute will be also constructed with the cooperation of education ministry to train the manpower needed by the unit.

33 Arrested for Drug Smuggling in Yadz

LD1808212789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, alert Yazd Islamic Revolutionary Court guards have discovered and confiscated of over 33 kg of heroin and 5 kg of opium, as well as nearly 1 million foreign cigarettes from a band of drug smugglers. In this connection, 30 of those accused of drug smuggling were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities.

79 Drug Smugglers Executed

LD1908090289 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19 IRNA—Another group of 79 drug notorious and professional drug smugglers, among them two women, were executed Saturday morning in Tehran and 21 other provincial cities.

The verdicts were issued by the Islamic revolutionary court in charge of anti-narcotics campaign.

They were found guilty of continuous involvement in purchase, sale and distribution of several tonnes of opium, hundreds of kilos of heroin, forming armed gangs, and (?engaging) in armed clashes with disciplinary forces.

The executions were carried out in cities of Shiraz, Mashhad, Birjand, Hamadan, Tehran, Bakhtaran, Gorgan, Yazd, Zahedan, Marv Dasht, Varamin, Qazvin, Esfahan, Rasht, Khvoy, Ferdows, Sirjan, Torbate-e Jam, Eqlid, Arsanjan, Qaderabad and Kerman.

Heroin, Opium Seized; 30 Persons Arrested

LD1908104689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of awareness of the Yazd Islamic revolution committee guards 33 kg and 70 g of heroin has been discovered from one smuggling gang.

According to a Central News Unit report, the commander of Yazd Islamic Revolution Committee added that 50 kg and 150 g of opium have been discovered from the merchants of death. Thirty who were accused of having smuggled these items were arrested and sent to the judiciary officials.

Drugs Discovered in Yazd; 14 Arrested

LD2008220189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The vigilance and efforts of Yazd's Islamic Revolution Committee guards has led to the discovery of 33 kgms of heroin and 44 kilos, 600 gms of opium in passing vehicles in that region during the past few days. According to IRNA, in connection with discovering these narcotics, 14 people were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities, together with files on them.

Human Rights Body on Political Prisoner Executions

LD2108180589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Executions and mass killings under the pretext of combating smuggling, are being continued by the (?executioners) of the Islamic Republic of Iran's regime. One of the officials of the Society for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran, named Mahmud Rafi', has stated that the society has received adequate evidence and data proving that the Islamic Republic of Iran's regime has executed a number of political prisoners under the pretext of executing smugglers. The said society will be publishing this information very soon. Up to now the innocent victims of the Islamic Republic regime have helplessly cried out that they are not smugglers just as they were going to be hanged, and that they are active members of various political organizations and parties.

Pakistan

Bhutto Visits Front Lines in Siachen Area

BK2208031289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inspected front lines at an altitude of 17,000 feet in Siachen yesterday. Addressing the soldiers, she said the government will make full efforts to meet the defense needs of the country and added that the whole nation is united in this regard. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the whole nation is proud of their valor and has full confidence and satisfaction that its valiant and courageous soldiers are defending its boundaries. The prime minister said it is not an easy task to defend the country in extremely bad and unfavorable weather conditions, but the Pakistani soldiers are discharging their duties with all sincerity. She announced a grant of 10 lakh rupees for the welfare of soldiers and officers in the Siachen area and 1 crore rupees for the widows and families of the handicapped soldiers in this sector.

Later, she inspected the base hospital in the area and inquired about the welfare of every soldier and officer admitted for injury or illness while discharging his duties.

Says Talks Stall, War 'Inevitable'

BK2108152289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Siachen Glacier, Pakistan, Aug 21 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Monday [21 August] that talks between Islamabad and New Delhi on ending hostilities over this strategic glacier had bogged down. The premier was making her first visit to the Army front lines at the disputed glacier high in the Karakoram Mountain range.

"We were hoping that negotiations would make some progress before the winter snow. But, unfortunately, that has not happened," she told accompanying journalists, adding that her troops would defend every inch of Pakistani territory. Ms. Bhutto admitted that another season of warfare was inevitable and added "as you can see everybody here is quite dug-in for another winter."

Officers said five shells fired by Indian troops had landed close to the frontal post of Ali Branghsa on Monday morning and added that 11 artillery shells and five rockets had fallen there on the eve of the premier's visit.

Government Protests Kabul's Scud Missile Firing

BK2208033589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Pakistan has protested the Kabul regime for firing a Scud missile near Ali Mangal in Kurram Agency on last Tuesday [15 August]. The charge d'affaires of the Kabul regime was told in Islamabad that this sort of continuous attacks may create serious consequences.

Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's allegations about involvement in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and has said that fighting in Afghanistan is the internal affair of that country.

Information Minister Leaves for Moscow 21 Aug

BK2208033189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Javed Jabbar, has left on a 4-day official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet minister for information and broadcasting.

Speaking to newsmen at Karachi airport yesterday evening, he said he would review the possibilities of cooperation in the information sector. The minister of state said that after the signing of the Geneva Accords there is a change in the situation and we will review how our friendly relations can be improved as a result.

Sri Lanka

President Premadasa Suggests 1-Week Cease-Fire

BK1908065689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president has appealed to all sections indulging in violence to cease hostility for a week or more to help open a dialogue and restore peace in the island. Mr Premadasa asked a delegation of the Sri Lankan Progressive Front in Colombo to intervene and help arrive at a cease-fire since it has contacts with the militant groups. He said the cease-fire should be observed by all sides.

Responding to the seven-point charter of demands submitted by the delegation, the president said most of the proposals required amendment to the Constitution, and, therefore, it is necessary to consult all parties and groups. Mr Premadasa said even a constituent assembly with all parties, including the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front], could be appointed to draw up a new constitution if required.

Meanwhile, 12 civilians have been killed in extremist violence throughout the country. One hundred ninety suspects have been taken into custody for questioning.

Five people were killed and six others injured in a bomb blast at Prema Jetty near Trincomalee harbor yesterday evening. Our correspondent, Jayaraja, reports from Trincomalee that the PKF [peacekeeping force] has started search operations. Further details are awaited.

Premier Makes Appeal

BK2108115889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, yesterday appealed for cease-fire and asked the militants to join talks in a bid to end violence. In a special appeal over radio and television, Mr Wijetunge said that the government values the lives of all people—whether they be in service and police personnel, militants, or others—and for this reason had constantly called for a halt to the violence and for discussions to solve problems. He said that it was the duty of all who had the love of the country to come forward to find solutions to this grave crisis by halting hostilities and all violent actions. The prime minister said that the government is expecting a response to his appeal from the militants.

All groups should be able to come together in such a situation and discuss their problems to arrive at a solution. The immediate need, the prime minister said, was to stop fighting and restore peaceful atmosphere. The security forces would readily respond if the militants agreed to halt hostilities.

On emergency regulations, Mr Wijetunge said that a stop to violence and intimidation would help the lifting of those regulations. He also called for a halt to acts of sabotage, adding that in such a situation the Armed Forces and the police would reciprocate.

The prime minister also said that any attack on the families of those who have joined the armed services and the police can have serious repercussions. He said that the Armed Forces could not ignore unlawful action of small group of subversives who cause damage to public property and harm civilians.

Commenting on the pressure exerted on public officials to resign their jobs, the prime minister said that the aftermath of such a situation would result in hardship to innocent people. He said that the destruction of the families of those engaged in the public service would also amount to the destruction of the people.

Mr Wijetunge said the government is now engaged in a major effort to obtain the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force] and any attempt to torpedo the administration at this time would block their effort. He said that Sri Lankan forces, police personnel, and public servants had to be deployed in the north and the east to ensure the security of the people there after the withdrawal of the IPKF. In such a situation, it is our duty to protect our personnel.

In conclusion, the prime minister appealed to the militants to consider these facts and to come forward to join in a process of consultation and dialogue through cessation of hostilities.

EPRLF Threatens Violence Over Indictment

BK1908072689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19 (AFP)—A Tamil political party in power in Sri Lanka's northeast warned Saturday it would return to the violent tactics it previously used if Colombo did not withdraw conspiracy charges against its leader. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said in a statement issued in southern India that Sri Lanka's unity and integrity would be in jeopardy if its cadres returned to the jungles.

The harshly worded statement came two days after a Sri Lankan high court issued a warrant for the arrest of EPRLf Secretary General Kandasamy Padmanabha in connection with a 1986 conspiracy case. Another 23 people charged in the same case with attempting to overthrow the government were pardoned earlier after they promised to renounce violence.

The EPRLF statement said its members were covered by a general amnesty issued after a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord which sought to end Tamil separatism and which the EPRLF has accepted.

The court order "only reinforces the Tamil people's suspicion that Sinhalese politicians will not even honour the beneficial clauses of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord," it said. The Sinhalese constitute the island's majority community.

The statement warned that if Colombo did not drop the charges against Mr. Padmanabha, then "the forces which accepted the democratic processes would have to rethink about resorting to our old forms of struggle."

The leftwing EPRLF is one of the five major Tamil groups which gave up separatism and laid down their arms under the 1987 accord. It came to power in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast following elections in November.

Mr. Padmanabha, who founded the EPRLF in 1981, is known to freqently travel between India and Sri Lanka, where New Delhi has some 43,000 peace keeping troops under the terms of the accord.

Further LTTE, JVP Violence Reported 20 Aug

BK2008160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Sri Lankan Government is considering as to what kind of replacement should be made after the withdrawal of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from the Northeastern Province of the island. In an interview to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] and AP on board the aircraft while returning from his tour of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh yesterday, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that before the PKF moves out, something else must be ready to move in. He said we have asked the Sri Lanka Government what they thought could replace the PKF.

Meanwhile, 10 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men have been killed and seven captured in continuing PKF operations. An Indian High Commission press release in Colombo says LTTE men killed over 10 civilians, including women and children, in Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts during the last couple of days.

Four civilians have been killed during the last 24 hours in continuing JVP [Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] violence. The security forces killed three JVP extremists. Over 550 persons have been taken into custody in Colombo suburbs for questioning.

The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Wijetunga, has appealed to the militants to join talks for ending the continuing political violence in the country. In a statement over television, Mr Wijetunga said the security forces would readily respond if the militants agreed to a cease-fire.

6 Killed in JVP Land Mine Blast 21 Aug

BK2108080889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists blew up an Army jeep, killing six people last night. An official spokesman said in Colombo today that the incident occurred in central Sri Lanka, when a land mine placed by the extremists exploded as the Army vehicle passed over it. The violence came as the Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Wijetunge, urged the rebels to end the hostilities and join talks to find a solution to the problem.

9 Killed in Raid on Rebel Safe House 22 Aug

BK2208055789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0510 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 22 (AFP)—Heavily armed troops raided a Sinhalese safe house in southern Sri Lanka, killing nine peple and capturing six, a military spokesman said here Tuesday.

Security forces raided the hideout of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) in Walasgala village late Monday drawing fire from the militants, the spokesman said. He said troops found weapons and ammunition at the site.

In a separate incident, JVP activists shot dead two policemen at Pamunugama, in northwestern district of Gampaha and the father of a constable in north-central district of Anuradhapura Monday, officials said. The killings came at the end of a Sunday deadline set by the JVP for security forces to quit their jobs or face attacks on their familes. Counter threats have been made by anti-JVP vigilantes saying they will kill 12 people from JVP families for each relative of soldiers and policeman killed by the rebels. Unconfirmed reports have said that the JVP has extended its Sunday deadline by a week.

Meanwhile, troops and police are continuing cordon and search operations in Colombo and provinces and have rounded up thousands of suspects, the military spokesman said. The Sinhalese rebel group has been accused of killing over 2,500 rivals in the past two years during their campaign to overthrow the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa. In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

22 Aug Situation Updated

BK2208025689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0229 GMT 22 Aug 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 22 (AFP)—Rebel strikes, charred bodies by roadsides, troops at every corner and nightly curfews are routine in violence-plagued Sri Lanka, once considered a tourist paradise in the Indian Ocean. Frenzied buying to beat the next work stoppage or curfew has fueled hikes in food prices and helped empty store shelves of vital supplies.

After a successful month-long bus strike, the violently anti-government Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) staged a hospital strike two weeks ago that brought all health services nationwide to a halt.

The latest strike officially ended Monday after 12 days and the deaths of scores of patients left unattended on hospital beds. But political analysts here say the worst is yet to come. "People are living from one curfew (by the government) to another curfew (by the JVP). Those who can afford it are leaving the country because they think there is no future here," leftist political leader Vasudeva Nanayakara said.

A wave of fear gripped the country over the weekend when a JVP deadline for security personnel and police to quit their jobs or risk attacks on their families ended with a counter threat on the rebels from vigilantes.

Even without the promised massacre of families of troops and JVP activists, dozens of bodies, often shot and partly burnt with tires are found almost daily in the provinces and sometimes even near the capital Colombo.

Government figures alone have shown that an average of 30 people are being killed daily in politically motivated attacks across the country, turning this once haven for pleasure seekers into a virtual killing field.

The military has accused the JVP of killing mostly supporters of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party and security personnel while the JVP blames the government for slaughtering its sympathisers and supporters.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne for the first time last week admitted there may be excesses by security forces in their drive against subversives, an official term for the JVP. "By threatening to kill families of soldiers, the JVP has turned the fight between the government and themselves to a direct war with the military. The conflagration is to be expected any time now," said Mr. Nanayakara, who leads the Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP).

Western and Asian diplomats agree that the situation in Sri Lanka has worsened in the past two months with rebels calling the shots and the government helpless in the face of terror tactics of the militants.

Work stoppages coupled with curfews reduced government revenue sharply last month and production has still not returned to normal, Finance Ministry officials said.

"I can't get any work done in my department. When people turn up for work, their main preoccupation is to go home and see that they have enough food for the family," a senior public servant said. Cooking gas has been rationed and wheat flour is in short supply due to transport problems, officials said. Banks often do not keep regular hours and cheques which normally take two days to clear may now take up to 10 days provided there is no early curfew or rebel strike.

For nearly three weeks a six-hour night curfew has been in force throughout the country and security forces have set up check points and road blocks at almost every turn.

Despite tight security, the JVP has been successful in attacking individual targets and even police stations and capturing weapons from them. Three television and radio personalities have been killed by rebels in the past three weeks and television news is now read by service personnel after newscasters refused to work in response to JVP threats.

In what political analysts see as a move to usurp the main platform of the JVP, Mr. Premadasa called for the speedy withdrawal of Indian troops deployed in the island's Tamil populated northeast, but the issue has since been pushed to the background. For the radical group, the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) is only one of many demands.

The group is pressing for the resignation of Mr. Premadasa and fresh parliamentary and general elections. The two polls were marred by low voter turnout and unprecedented violence and bloodshed in December and February.

The JVP is overshadowed in the island's northeast where some 43,000 Indian troops are battling to disarm the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Outside the northeast, where the majority Sinhalese community is concentrated, parents fear for their young children because they could be drawn into JVP ranks or picked up by security forces as suspects. Schools and universities have been shut indefinitely due to JVP unrest. The JVP, which draws much of its support from young, educated, but unemployed youth, led a bloody insurrection in 1971 which was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives. Long queues of young people waiting outside foreign missions in Colombo to get visas to escape the turmoil in the country is a common sight as the orgy of violence escalates, though many here believe it has yet to reach a climax.